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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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RSS Chief says leaders should step down at 75

BENGALURU, 11 JULY

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat suggested stepping aside at the age of 75 to make way for new leadership, while speaking at the release of the biography Moropant Pingale: The Architect of Hindu Resurgence in Nagpur, prompting Opposition parties to link it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking at the book release, the RSS leader recalled the time when former Sangh leader Pingale turned 75. As per Bhagwat, Pingale said: "When someone is felicitated at 75, it means: now your time is up, now step aside and let us do the work." The RSS chief added, "Everything was done out of respect for him." *—Agencies*

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Red Notice deports drug producer from UAE to India

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

An alleged synthetic narcotics producer facing an Interpol Red Notice was deported to India from the UAE on Friday, in an operation coordinated by the CBI through Interpol and Mumbai police. Kubbawala Mustafa was brought from the UAE to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai. The Mumbai police had busted a synthetic drugs manufacturing facility in Sangli run by Mustafa, where 126.141 kg of mephedrone drugs was recovered and confiscated. Mustafa was chargesheeted in Mumbai and a special court had issued an open-dated arrest warrant against him. *—PTI*

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Gurugram tennis player was shot 4 times by father

GURUGRAM, 11 JULY

Police here on Friday said they were investigating all possible angles in the murder of former tennis player Radhika Yadav, including what her mother was doing when the incident occurred, as the autopsy report revealed that she was shot four times. According to an FIR registered based on the complaint of the deceased's uncle, Kuldeep Yadav, Radhika's mother, Manju Yadav, was present on the first floor of the house when the shooting took place. According to officials, Deepak confessed that he shot at Radhika because he was often taunted for living off her income. *—PTI*

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AI plane crash report coming soon: Aviation Min

MUMBAI, 11 JULY

Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's (AAIB) preliminary investigation report on the fatal Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad last month is expected very soon, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said on Friday and emphasised that the ministry is ensuring transparency and accountability in the probe. "Very soon... AAIB is working on it... it is the responsibility of AAIB, let them do their job," Naidu said. On 12 June, Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft en-route to London Gatwick crashed into a medical hostel complex soon after takeoff from Ahmedabad, killing 260 people, including 241 who were onboard the plane. One passenger survived the crash. *—PTI*

Pak could not break even glass pane: NSA

Dares media to show one image of damage

CHENNAI, 11 JULY

India smashed nine terror targets with precision in Pakistan and PoK under Operation Sindoor, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said and dared the foreign media to show "even one image" of damage to any Indian structure, even a "glass pane having been broken".

Speaking at the 62nd Convocation of IIT Madras, Doval claimed that not a single intended target in Pakistan was missed during the 7 May military offensive, which was a retaliation to the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack.

"We are really proud of how much indigenous content there was. We decided to have nine terrorist targets in the crisscross of Pakistan, it was not in the border areas. We missed none. We hit nowhere else except that. It was precise to the point where we knew who was where. The entire operation that started at 1.05am took 23 minutes," he said.

Criticising foreign media, Doval, specifically named the New York Times and said: "They (international media) wrote these things and put out things. (But) The images only showed 13 air bases in Pakistan before and after 10 May, whether it was in Sargodha, Rahim Yar Khan, Chaklala or Rawalpindi". He claimed images could only show damage done by the Indian Air Force.

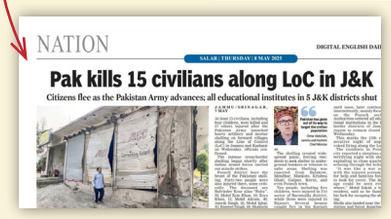
"You tell me one image or photograph which shows any damage to any Indian structure, even a glass pane having been broken," he said.

"We are proud of (Operation Sindoor)—that some of our best systems worked, whether it was BrahMos, the integrated air control, or battlefield surveillance," he added. *—PTI*

BUT WINDOWS DID SHATTER

While the NSA claimed that not even a single glass pane was broken in India during the conflict, SALAR NEWS had reported that several people were killed.

A house damaged during the conflict, at Uri, Jammu and Kashmir, 9 May *PHOTO: PTI*


NATION
DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY
SALAR | THURSDAY | 8 MAY 2025
Pak kills 15 civilians along LoC in J&K
Citizens flee as the Pakistan Army advances; all educational institutes in 5 J&K districts shut

A shell fell... It was right next to our house, where we were. It fell and we panicked... a glass window shattered

—Shariyar Ali, 25, a student in Poonch, during the conflict

AAP booked over 'doctored video' of Punjab Cong man

CHANDIGARH, 11 JULY

A case was registered against AAP based on a complaint by Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa who accused the ruling party of taking the video he posted related to SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia's case, and circulating it after allegedly doctoring it, officials said on Friday.

In his complaint, Bajwa had sought an FIR against the Aam Aadmi Party, "their concerned leaders and their henchmen in fabricating videos against me", as he referred to a recent case against Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Majithia, who was arrested in a disproportionate assets case.

"Recently, an FIR was registered against Majithia by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau. His wife, Ganieve Kaur, is a Member of the Legislative Assembly, Punjab. In blatant violation of the law, officials from the Punjab Vigilance Bureau entered her home and even went into her bedroom. Such conduct towards a woman is unacceptable and contrary to the law," Bajwa stated.

Bajwa further stated that on 25 June, he posted a 3-minute-48-second video on X at 3.13pm, criticising the actions of the Punjab Vigilance Bureau officials. He also highlighted similar misconduct by them towards Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira.

Bajwa alleged that the AAP's official social media accounts on X and Facebook edited his video to remove references to Ganieve Kaur and her position as a female MLA. According to the FIR, the case was registered under BNS Sections 336 (4) (forgery), 356 (defamation) and 61 (2) (criminal conspiracy). *—PTI*

Officials from the Punjab Vigilance Bureau entered her home and even went into her bedroom. Such conduct towards a woman is unacceptable and contrary to the law

- Partap Singh Bajwa, Congress leader

Mann mocks PM's travels, faces MEA's ire

CHANDIGARH, 11 JULY

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has taken a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his foreign visits, saying he finds time to tour abroad but "fails" to address the concerns of 140 crore Indians.

"It seems that when the PM is flying in his plane, he looks down and asks, 'Which country is that?' When told it's so-and-so, he says, 'No worries, we will reach an hour late where we are going; let's land here now.' He decides to land just anywhere. That's how he landed in Pakistan too," Mann, a comedian-turned-politician, said in Punjabi in the state assembly on Friday.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday disapproved of Mann's criticism, terming his comments "irresponsible".

"Don't we have a right to ask the PM about foreign policy? When our relation with Pakistan turned bad, did any country stand by us," Mann said in response. "I asked about the foreign policy that wherever you go, why Adani's business starts there... Don't we have the right to ask?" *—PTI*

It will become State's 12th Vande Bharat Express *PHOTO: X*

City to welcome new Vande Bharat Express to Shivamogga soon

BENGALURU, 11 JULY

Bengaluru is set to enhance its high-speed rail network with the introduction of the Bengaluru–Shivamogga Vande Bharat Express, which aims to boost connectivity between the state capital and Central Karnataka. The announcement was made by Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan, who stated on X, "Shivamogga–Bengaluru Vande Bharat soon." Although the launch date and timetable are yet to be confirmed, the service has been highly anticipated by residents of Shivamogga, located approximately 300km from City.

There has been a persistent demand from the Shivamogga community for a Vande Bharat connection to Bengaluru, particularly following the recent infrastructural upgrades, including the inauguration of Shivamogga Airport by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023. The new Vande Bharat service is expected to complement existing air travel options, providing a reliable and comfortable rail alternative.

Once operational, the Shivamogga route will become Karnataka's 12th Vande Bharat Express, further strengthening the state's premium rail network. This addition will enable Bengaluru to be directly linked by Vande Bharat trains to seven major cities, including Mysuru, Chennai, Ernakulam, Hyderabad, Dharwad, Coimbatore, and Belagavi.

Earlier this year, the Bengaluru–Belagavi Vande Bharat Express was launched. *—PTI*

BJP, EC conspiring to steal election in Bihar, says Rahul

BHUBANESWAR, 11 JULY

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused the BJP of making attempts to "hijack upcoming elections in Bihar, as it did in Maharashtra," while addressing the party's 'Samvidhan Bachao Samavesh' in Odisha.

He also said that the INDIA bloc parties have decided, after a meeting on Thursday, to prevent the BJP from "hijacking" the Bihar assembly polls, alleging that the saffron party is "attacking our Constitution across the country". The Congress leader accused the Election Commission of India (ECI) of working in the "interest of the BJP" instead of its duty, and further alleged that

"The BJP runs the government for five to six capitalists. It does not work for the common people of the country." Gandhi flayed the Odisha's BJP for not working in the favour of the tribal community in the state. *—PTI*

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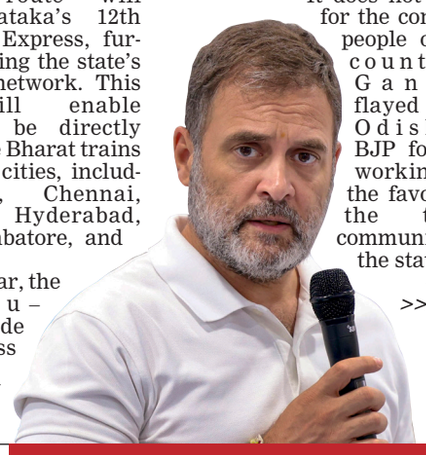

Day after tax notice, M'rashtra minister caught with 'bag of cash'

MUMBAI, 11 JULY

A video of Maharashtra minister Sanjay Shirsat, appearing to showcase a bag filled with what looks like cash, has sparked controversy. The footage, which has gone viral, shows Shirsat in a room with a partially opened bag, leading to allegations of financial impropriety.

In response, the Shiv Sena minister firmly dismissed claims that the bag contained money, asserting it held only clothes. Shirsat explained in a press conference that the setting of the video is his home, where he had just returned from travel. He pointed out that if he had a substantial sum of money, he would not store it in a bag but would rather use his cupboards.

Sanjay Raut, a fellow Shiv Sena (UBT) MP, shared the video on social media platform X, calling on Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take notice of the situation. Raut expressed his sympathy for Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, critiquing his leadership amid the scandal.

This incident comes just a day after Shirsat received scrutiny from the Income Tax Department over a dramatic rise in his declared assets, which soared from Rs 3.3 crore in 2019 to Rs 35 crore in 2024. He has requested additional time to respond to the department's inquiries regarding this increase. *—PTI*

Maharashtra minister Sanjay Shirsat, a video screengrab *PHOTO: FB/X*

US advises Iranian-Americans against going to Iran

WASHINGTON, 11 JULY

The US State Department has launched a campaign urging Americans, particularly Iranian Americans, to avoid travel to Iran due to significant risks. Spokesperson Tammy Bruce highlighted that the Iranian government does not recognise dual nationality and often denies consular access to detained US citizens.

During a press briefing, Bruce stated, "The department is announcing a new awareness campaign warning Americans, especially Iranian Americans, about the continuing severe risks of travel to Iran." She also unveiled a dedicated website aimed at informing the public on this matter, accessible through state.gov.

Bruce stressed the ongoing dangers of travelling to Iran, stating, "It is not safe for anyone," reinforcing existing travel advisories. *—ANI*

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POWER CUTS AND HARRASMENT

Bengalis in Delhi slum allege institutional discrimination

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Slum dwellers of Jai Hind Camp in Delhi's Vasant Kunj area, home to Bengali-speaking migrants from West Bengal's Cooch Behar, have been without electricity and water for over three days. They say they are being discriminated against and say there is administrative negligence.

Tucked away behind upscale residential blocks, the camp is largely inhabited by domestic and sanitation workers, who have now been plunged into darkness amid stagnant rainwater, broken kutcha lanes, and rising humidity amidst the monsoon.

"We've had no power or water for days now. Electricity was disconnected without any notice," said Shyam Singh, a long-time resident. He claimed that the two main meters in the camp, registered in the names of a temple and a mosque, were targeted despite their dues being cleared.

"Officials came with CRPF jawans, cut our cables, and left without explanation. We've shown our bills, approached the electricity office, but no one has responded," he said.

Residents allege their repeated appeals to the local administration and politicians have gone unanswered.

The incident has drawn the ire of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who alleged a broader pattern of hostility against Bengalis. "This is not just about one camp. We've seen similar incidents in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. There's a worrying trend of targeting Bengali-speaking citizens".

Residents of Jai Hind camp linked the situation to a linguistic and regional bias.

"Are we not Indian citizens?" asked Nabi Hussain, another slum dweller. *—PTI*

Residents of Jai Hind camp linked the situation to a linguistic and regional bias *PHOTO: X*

5 booked in Mysuru for dowry harassment, forced abortion

MYSURU, 11 JULY

Saraswathipuram police have booked five people for dowry harassment and allegedly forcing a woman to undergo an abortion during her second month of pregnancy. Navya, an ayurvedic doctor of KR Pet taluk hospital, married Abhishekh three months ago. Her father, Mahadeva accused Abhishek and his parents of harassing her and forcing her into an abortion. Police booked Abhishekh, his father Govindraj and mother Latha as well as the hospital's managing director Jnanashekhar, doctor Latha. *—Salar News*

Man stabbed for elder brother's unpaid loan

DHARWAD, 11 JULY

A 25-year-old man was stabbed in a row over a loan, taken by his elder brother from a person known to the latter, in Dharwad town on Friday morning. Raghavendra Gaikwad, 25, a resident of Kanthi Galli, was stabbed by a person identified in preliminary reports as Mallik, around 10am on Friday, police said. The tip of the knife broke and was stuck in Gaikwad's body. It was later surgically removed at the Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) at Hubballi. Police recovered the remaining part of the knife from the crime scene, and produced it as material evidence at the court. Hubballi-Dharwad Police Commissioner N Shashikumar confirmed that Raghavendra's elder brother had obtained a loan from Malik. *—Salar News*

PHOTO: X/HAL

HAL and CeNS join forces to foster science education

BENGALURU, 11 JULY

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has partnered with the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) to promote science education through the establishment of the HAL Advanced Academic Initiation Centre. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed by HAL's General Manager (HR), Pradeep Kumar, and CeNS Director, Prof BLV Prasad, as part of HAL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. DK Sunil, CMD of HAL, highlighted that this initiative aims to enhance scientific outreach, particularly to students in rural areas with limited exposure to advanced scientific concepts. Prof Prasad commended HAL's efforts, stating the centre will facilitate hands-on demonstrations of scientific principles to larger student groups. Located at CeNS' Arkavathi Campus in State, this centre will be part of the Vigyaani Vidyarthi Vichar Vinimay (V4) programme, which has so far reached over 20,000 students from 200 institutions. *—PTI*

BIOFUEL ACTION PLAN

SE Sudheendra, Chairman (Cabinet Rank), Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board and Vice President of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, discusses Bioenergy with Shalini Rajneesh, State Chief Secretary. He shared a Biofuel action plan, and discussed setting up of biofuel stations in City and other cities of Karnataka, proper storage/marketing of Used Cooking Oil (UCO) and supply to biodiesel production units

PHOTO: SALAR NEWS

Won't speak about leadership change: DKS

Deputy CM asks people not to question him about the issue as the CM has already spoken

BENGALURU, 11 JULY

In the wake of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asserting that he would complete his five years' tenure, his deputy DK Shivakumar on Friday said the CM has replied to all the questions on the matter.

"The Chief Minister has already answered all your questions. It's not appropriate for me to keep repeating the same, and it's not right for you to keep asking," Shivakumar told reporters at the City airport, upon his return from New Delhi.

Both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar were in the national capital to meet the Congress High Command earlier this week.

"Why are you (pointing to reporters) panicking about our internal matters when we are not?" Shivakumar quipped.

Asked about the alleged support for him within the party to take over as CM, Shivakumar said, "Leave it. Many of you have aspirations too." He declined to comment further on questions about leadership change.

"I'm not going to answer any of your questions at this point," he said.

"We discussed appointments of party workers as chairpersons and members of boards and corporations.

BT Lalitha Naik and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at the party office in Bengaluru on Friday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

Since all MLAs have submitted their opinions, we're now in the final stages. One more round of discussions with the high command will help finalise the names," he said.

Later, speaking at a party event to welcome new leaders into the Congress fold, he said, "What Congress has given me is not important and don't ask questions like it did not make me a member, Chairman, Minister, Chief Minister, Central Minister or Governor. What is significant is that it has given us strength to speak".

On Thursday, Siddaramaiah told reporters in Delhi that there was "no vacancy" for the top post.

FRUITFUL IRRIGATION DISCUSSIONS

Shivakumar described his visit as "fruitful" on irrigation issues.

"Union Jal Shakthi Minister has assured us that our request for funds for Yettinahole drinking water project would be considered positively," he said, "It was a fruitful meeting.... We discussed many aspects with Union Jal Shakthi Minister CR Patil, including releasing the gazette notification for increasing the height of Almatti dam and approvals for Mekedatu project."

No one is ready to believe what the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister say.... Why has the high command not said that (Siddaramaiah) will continue?

—Basavaraj Bommai, ex-chief minister

We don't know anything about a power-sharing agreement.... If this issue had been raised with us or brought up during a Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting—which our general secretaries also attend frequently—this confusion might not have arisen

–G Parameshwara, Home Minister

"We also had a discussion with Union Minister for Environment Bhupendra Yadav on environmental clearance for Kalasa-Bhanduri project. He has suggested an amicable solution between the two States. We have moved Supreme Court as Goa can't object for this project," he explained.

—Salar News with Agencies

State to finalise board, corporation appointments on 16 July

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced on Friday that the final decision on appointing members to remaining state boards and corporations will be taken on 16 July.

Congress National General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala is scheduled to visit the State on 16 July evening for further discussions before finalising the names, Siddaramaiah told reporters.

The first round of discussions with Surjewala was successful on Thursday. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar was also present in the meeting.

"Surjewala is coming to Bengaluru on 16 July, then we are going to finalise the list," Siddaramaiah said before leaving New Delhi.

While most top posts in State boards and corporations have been filled, primarily by legislators, operational vacancies at various levels remain and are being addressed through ongoing recruitment drives.

The appointment in State is a politically significant process that typically involves both elected legislators and party workers and is often used to balance internal party dynamics and reward loyalty. *—PTI*

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Congress National General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala is scheduled to visit the State on 16 July ***PHOTO: X/SIDDARAMAIAH***

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy flags off one of the 148 new BMTC buses with special facilities for the differently abled, in Bengaluru on Friday ***PHOTO: Mohammed Asad***

BMTC rolls out 148 upgraded e-buses

BENGALURU, 11 JULY

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) on Friday announced the induction of 148 non-AC electric buses from Tata Motors Ltd for public service, along with the launch of new routes under express services and package tours.

The first phase of this induction was marked by the ceremonial flag-off of 10 non-AC electric buses by State Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy. By further expanding its fleet of electric buses, BMTC has taken a significant step towards promoting public transport and combating rising vehicular pollution in Bengaluru. As of now, BMTC operates a total of 1,436 electric buses across various routes in the city, it said.

"These additional 148 new non-AC electric buses, supplied by TML (Tata Motors Ltd) Smart City Mobility Solutions Ltd, are being operated under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model for a contractual period of 12 years at a rate of Rs 41.01 per kilometre per bus, inclusive of electricity charges," BMTC said in a statement. *—PTI*

MAN HELD IN ₹20 CR REALTY SCAM

KALABURAGI, 11 JULY

Ramu Akul, a man from Telangana, has been arrested for defrauding over 800 investors out of Rs 20 crore through an online trading scheme masquerading as a real estate business. Initially an Air Traffic Control employee, Akul shifted to Kalaburagi in 2019 after suffering losses in his prior business ventures.

Under the guise of his firm, Venus Enterprises, he lured investors with promises of returns between Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 for every Rs 1 lakh invested, as well as a 15 per cent commission for referring new members. However, the scheme was unsustainable, and as new investments dwindled, he was unable to meet his obligations.

Following numerous complaints, including one from Ullas Ashok, police apprehended Akul in Hyderabad. Investigations revealed he had also purchased six plots near the local jail and sought permission to start a nursery school. In addition to his businesses, authorities uncovered twelve bank accounts linked to Akul. The Central Economic Narcotics have registered a case.

—SALAR NEWS

Prakash Raj slams CM's 'double standards'

MYSURU, 11 JULY

Multilingual actor and activist Prakash Raj, condemned ChiefMinister Siddaramaiah's "double standards" over the Devanahalli land acquisition project.

Speaking to reporters along with Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Dalitha Sangarsha Samithi leaders, he accused Siddaramaiah of playing "drama" over the issue.

Raj alleged that the State government was involved in a "real estate business". Siddaramaiah had promised Raj and agitating farmers that he would resolve their demands by 15 July. But he then met the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during his recent New Delhi visit, Raj said.

"On the one hand, the CM agreed to look into the demands of farmers of Devanahalli, on the other he promised the Defence Minister that he would provide land for establishment of Defence and aerospace corridors," Raj hit out.

Raj alleged that the State government is following a policy of coercion and intimidation to grab farmer land. He alleged that 1,777 acres were taken from farmers, offering Rs 3 crore per acre without proper consultation

"When he was in the Opposition, Siddaramaiah had vehemently opposed the Devanahalli project in the Assembly. But now, after assuming office, he has not only given the green light for the final notification but has also failed to honour his commitment to meet with farmers," Raj said.

Raj also questioned the silence of Opposition parties such as the BJP and JD(S) over the issue, and demanded the government explain why the land was acquired without central clearance. *—Salar News*

Film actor and activist Prakash Raj alleged that the Karnataka government was involved in a real estate business ***PHOTO: SALAR NEWS***

PM to be met soon for defence corridor: MB Patil

BENGALURU, 11 JULY

The State government is making strides in establishing a defence corridor in the state, with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh responding positively to the proposal, Minister for Large and Medium Industries MB Patil said. He added that the State will approach Prime Minister Narendra Modi soon.

Patil said, "Singh has responded positively to our request to sanction defence corridors for Hubballi-Dharwad-Belgaum-Vijayapura in North Karnataka and Bengaluru Rural-Kolar-Chikkaballapur in South Karnataka. We will also meet with Modi in this regard as soon as possible. After that, the matter will come before the Union Cabinet". *—ANI*

12 more held in Vijayapura Canara bank heist

VIJAYAPURA, 11 JULY

Twelve more individuals have been arrested in connection with the theft of gold and cash worth over Rs 53.26 crore from Canara Bank's Managuli branch in Karnataka's Vijayapura district, police confirmed on Friday.

The arrests followed the interrogation of three suspects detained last month, including former branch manager Vijayakumar Miriyala. With the total number of accused now standing at 15, police have so far recovered assets worth Rs 39.26 crore. These include 39kg of melted gold, Rs 1.16 crore in cash, and five cars, according to Vijayapura Superintendent of Police Lakshman Nimbargi. The robbery occurred on 25 May at the Managuli branch in Basavanabagewadi. *—PTI*

Modi proposed 75 as politicians' retirement age, says Kharge Jr

BENGALURU, 11 JULY

- As Prime Minister Narendra Modi approaches his 75th birthday, Priyank Kharge highlighted the PM's previous assertion that 75 years should be a cut-off age for politicians, prompting speculations about whether he might transition to a 'magdarshak mandal'

Following remarks by RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat suggesting that leaders should step aside at 75, Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge has shifted focus from age to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's contributions to the nation. As Modi approaches his 75th birthday later this year, Kharge highlighted the Prime Minister's previous assertion that 75 should be a cut-off age for politicians, prompting speculation about whether he might transition to a 'magdarshak mandal'.

Kharge stated, "We are not targeting the Prime Minister nor are we interested in his age; we are interested in his work and contribution to the country. However, since he is turning 75 in a few months, there is speculation about his potential change in role."

The discussion of leadership changes in Karna taka was also addressed by Kharge, who emphasised that the Congress leadership remains united and clear that no changes are being considered.

These remarks come in light of Jairam Ramesh's critique of Modi, insinuating that Bhagwat's comments serve as a subtle message regarding the Prime Minister's upcoming milestone. Ramesh tweeted, "Poor, award-winning Prime Minister! What a homecoming—reminded by the RSS chief about his impending 75th birthday."

He added, "One arrow, two targets!" *—ANI*

BBMP EYES RABIES CONTROL

BBMP's chicken-rice for strays gets cheers & barbs

PHOTO: GEMINI AI

BENGALURU, 11 JULY

- X user Lord Immy Kant wrote sarcastically: 'After watching the news of Bengaluru feeding stray dogs with chicken and rice daily, stray dogs from all over India are planning to shift to Bengaluru.' BBMP Special Commissioner Suralkar Vikas Kishor said feeding strays should not be viewed in isolation. The broader goal, he said, is to eliminate rabies by 2030

Every day for the last six years, promptly at noon, 37-year-old 'Protein' Prabhu has sat with a basket of bananas at the entrance of the Indian Institute of Statistics campus, adjacent to the Bangalore University campus, feeding monkeys. Prabhu also feeds about 30 dogs in the vicinity. He is happy that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) decided to feed them chicken and rice across all eight zones—around 4,000 in total—at an estimated cost of Rs 2.8 lakh.

"This is a great step to control dog aggression, and a huge relief to people like me who spend from our own pockets. I spend about Rs 2,500 daily on chicken and rice for the dogs," Prabhu said.

According to BBMP's tender document, the civic body plans to feed around 440 dogs in each zone. At about 11am everyday, a 400gm meal of chicken and rice—providing roughly 750 calories—will be served at designated feeding points, it added.

The unprecedented move left people divided.

An X user, Lord Immy Kant, wrote sarcastically, "After watching the news of Bengaluru feeding stray dogs with chicken and rice daily, stray dogs from all over India are planning to shift to Bengaluru. No language problems for them."

Similarly, Chethan Subbaiah posted a photo of a puppy lying in a pothole puddle, captioned: "Bengaluru dog relaxing in a jacuzzi after having a tummy full of chicken rice and egg rice."

On the other side, Congress MP Karti Chidambaram from Sivaganga in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, said, "They need to be relocated to shelters, where they can be fed, vaccinated, and sterilised. Feeding and keeping them free-roaming on the streets is a huge health and safety hazard."

Defending the decision, BBMP's Special Commissioner (Health and Sanitation), Suralkar Vikas Kishor, said feeding strays should not be viewed in isolation. The broader goal, he said, is to eliminate rabies by 2030. "We are simultaneously carrying out other measures like birth control and vaccination. Feeding strays is one part of the strategy".

He added that this would be a focused initiative. "We are targeting about 2 per cent of the dog population and will concentrate on areas with high dog bite incidents, as well as places where no feeders currently operate or where feeders face challenges".

He noted that consistent feeding would eventually lead to better access to dogs identified as aggressive. The BBMP can then catch them more easily for vaccination or birth control surgeries, Kishor added. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

M'rashtra spl bill to combat left-wing extremism

MUMBAI, 11 JULY

Maharashtra's Legislative Council on Friday approved the Special Public Security Bill aimed at curbing activities of Left-wing extremist groups, which have already been outlawed in other states. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis hailed the legislation, asserting it is essential for addressing the presence of six organisations operating in Maharashtra despite being banned elsewhere. The bill, which builds upon existing laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, is designed to provide a legal framework to act against groups perceived as undermining the Constitution. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FB

Fraud case: SC orders ex-Haryana MLA to surrender

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The Supreme Court has directed former Congress MLA Dharam Singh Chhoker to surrender back to jail by 5pm on 12 July in connection with Rs 1,500 crore money laundering case. Chhoker had been granted interim bail on medical grounds by the Punjab and Haryana High Court for surgery, but the court stressed this was a "one-time measure." His legal team claimed he suffered injuries, including a fractured hand while being arrested by ED officials and that the HC's decision to restrict bail violates Chhoker's constitutional rights. The Supreme Court, however, dismissed his plea, prompting his lawyers to withdraw the petition. *—PTI*

Now, Gaikwad threatens to slap AIMIM leader

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, 11 JULY

Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad, who has kicked up a row for assaulting an MLA hostel canteen worker, on Friday issued a threat to AIMIM leader Imtiaz Jaleel, saying he would thrash the latter badly. His remarks come after Jaleel criticised Gaikwad for attacking the canteen staffer. Jaleel also hit back at Gaikwad, saying he accepted the challenge, and to specify the place and time for their confrontation. A video of the episode went viral, drawing widespread condemnation from the opposition as well as the government. The former AIMIM MP criticised Gaikwad, saying beating a poor person in such a way was not good.*—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Cong flays T'gana BJP Prez citing Rohit Vemula case

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The Congress party has condemned the appointment of N Ramchander Rao as President of the BJP's Telangana unit, citing his involvement in the 2016 Rohith Vemula suicide case. The opposition alleged that the BJP rewards those who act against Dalits and Adivasis, demanding that the party reconsider such appointments and issue an unconditional apology to the nation. Telangana Deputy Chief Minister, Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu accused Rao of exerting pressure on university authorities that ultimately led to Vemula's tragic death.*—PTI*

BJP, EC conspiring to steal Bihar election, says Rahul

'BJP wants to omit secularism, socialism from Constitution'

Congress leader and LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi speaks during the party's 'Samvidhan Bachao Samavesh', in Bhubaneswar, on Friday PHOTO: PTI

BHUBANESWAR, 11 JULY

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused the BJP of making attempts to "hijack upcoming elections in Bihar, as it did in Maharashtra".

Addressing the party's 'Samvidhan Bachao Samavesh' in Odisha, Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, said the INDIA bloc parties have decided to prevent the BJP from "hijacking" the Bihar assembly polls.

"Like Maharashtra, attempts are being made to hijack the elections in Bihar. The BJP is attacking our Constitution across the country," Gandhi alleged.

During an INDIA bloc meeting held on Thursday, it was decided to "prevent the BJP from hijacking the elections in Bihar," where assembly polls are due later this year, he claimed.

He also accused the Election Commission of India (ECI) of "not doing its duty but working for the interest of the BJP". Meanwhile, speaking at the same rally,Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge made similar claims, alleging that the BJP-led central government was attempting to omit secularism and socialism from the Constitution, and weakening legislations meant to protect the poor and tribals.

Kharge also said that tribals, dalits, women and youths of the country will have to learn to fight for their rights under the BJP rule. *—PTI*

Nitish disburses first instalment of hiked pensions

PATNA, 11 JULY

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday disbursed the first instalment of the hiked pension amount of Rs 1,100 per month to the bank accounts of 1.11 crore beneficiaries, including senior citizens, widows and people with disabilities.

Over Rs 1,227 crore was credited under six different pension schemes during a function here, officials said. Bihar had on 24 June increased the pension from Rs 400 per month to Rs 1,100. "The elderly are an important part of society, and ensuring a dignified life for them is a top priority of our government. It will continue to make efforts in this direction. We will ensure that this amount is disbursed on the 10th of every month," Kumar said on the occasion. *—PTI*

Shashi Tharoor and K Muraleedharan PHOTO: ANI

Tharoor next CM? Cong leader says 'pick a party first'

T'PURAM, 11 JULY

- The survey, reportedly conducted by a private agency, found that 28.3 per cent of respondents believe Tharoor is best suited to lead the state

Senior Congress leader K Muraleedharan hit out at Shashi Tharoor on Thursday over sharing a survey suggesting he is UDF's most preferred choice for Chief Minister, saying "he should first decide which party he belongs to".

"Even if someone else is leading in the survey, if the (Congress-led) UDF comes to power in the 2026 Assembly polls, the chief minister will be from the UDF," Muraleedharan told reporters on Thursday, reacting to a query on Tharoor's post on 'X' earlier.

"Our aim is to win the elections. We are not interested in such unnecessary controversies," he said.

He further said that several senior leaders would be considered for the post of CM, irrespective of what any survey says.

He also took a swipe at Tharoor amid a widening rift between him and the party's central leadership over his reactions following the Pahalgam terror attack, which have drawn sharp criticism within the Congress.

The survey, reportedly conducted by a private agency, found that 28.3 per cent of respondents believe Tharoor is best suited to lead the state.

Kerala is scheduled to go to the Assembly polls in April next year, as the five-year term of the second LDF government led by CPI(M) veteran Pinarayi Vijayan comes to an end.

Muraleedharan said that he praises everyone except Congress leaders. *—PTI*

Jairam Ramesh, Narendra Modi, Mohan Bhagwat PHOTO: PTI

Cong says RSS wants Modi to retire after 75

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh on Friday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks concerning leaders stepping aside at the age of 75 to allow for fresh leadership.

In a post on X, Ramesh, who is the General Secretary in charge of Communications for Congress, claimed that the RSS chief's remark is a veiled message to PM Modi, who will turn 75 later this year.

"Poor, award-winning PM! What a homecoming - reminded by the RSS chief upon return that he will turn 75 on September 17, 2025," Ramesh said. "But the PM could also tell the RSS chief that he, too, will turn 75 on September 11, 2025! One arrow, two targets!"

The post followed comments reportedly made in Nagpur at an event in which the RSS chief said that turning 75 means one should stop and make way for others.

The remark has prompted opposition politicians to question its implications for the PM, who, like Bhagwat, turns 75 this September.

A day earlier, Ramesh asked Modi to address issues of the country, including visiting Manipur. *—ANI*

WHY DON'T YOU MILK MINORITY INSTITUTIONS?: TAMILISAI CHARGES AT CM

CHENNAI, 11 JULY

A war of words erupted in Tamil Nadu between the ruling DMK and the Opposition after BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan stated that the government is drawing funds from temple trusts to build colleges, but not from minority institutions.

"Former CM Edappadi Palaniswami said that the government is taking money from Hindu temples, but not from minority organisations. When other departments also have funds, why are you so biased towards Hindu organisations? You are only taking money from temples," claimed the BJP leader.

Tamilisai Soundararajan PHOTO: PTI

Speaking to reporters, she further said, "He (Palaniswami) didn't say temple funds shouldn't be used; he only pointed out issues related to money management. We encourage the use of funds to build institutions. However, the DMK government has twisted his words." *—ANI*

ONOE doesn't violate Constitution: Ex-CJIs

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Former Chief Justices of India - DY Chandrachud and JS Khehar - flagged certain provisions of the Constitutional Amendment Bill for simultaneous elections on Friday, including powers it vested with the Election Commission, but rejected the suggestion that the idea falls foul of the Constitution, sources said.

Khehar is the third ex-CJI to question the wide leeway the bill confers on the poll body under its 82A(5) Section in deciding on holding the election of an assembly after Ranjan Gogoi and Chandrachud.

While Chandrachud appeared before the Joint Committee of Parliament headed by BJP MP PP Chaudhary after Khehar, he had submitted his written opinion earlier.

Grey areas in ONOE bill

Summarising the views expressed by the two jurists on what has come to be known as the One Nation, One Election (ONOE) bill, a source said both of them suggested that the bill has certain grey areas that should be addressed by the committee and made some suggestions as well.

Opposition party leaders, including Congress' Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, had raised queries about the constitutionality of dissolving assemblies midway to synchronise their polls with Lok Sabha elections, sources said.

Khehar is learnt to have said that the Parliament or the Union Council of Ministers should have a say in taking the call on holding the election of an assembly, as envisaged under the Constitution Amendment Bill.

Referring to a Section of the proposed law, he said it should also specify what will happen in case of an Emergency. Several legal experts, including four ex-CJIs, have appeared before the committee, which held its eighth sitting on Friday. *—PTI*

Suvendu's 'dont go to Muslim areas' earns TMC's wrath

KOLKATA, 11 JULY

All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) on Friday criticised the "calculated act of communal provocation" of BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Legislative Asssembly, Suvendu Adhikari, after he urged people in State not to visit areas with "Muslim majority."

Adhikari's remarks came after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee met with J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and urged people in the State to visit the UT, in a push to revive tourism, which saw a significant decrease after the 22 April terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

The West Bengal LoP is now facing political backlash from the ruling AITC, which has termed his statement a "disgraceful, calculated act of communal provocation."

"The terrorists attacked Pahalgam to paralyse Kashmir's economy, and Suvendu is handing them exactly what they wanted," the party said in a X post.

Jammu and Kashmir CM Omar Abdullah with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during their meeting at the state secretariat Nabanna, in Kolkata PHOTO: PTI

Criticising the saffron party, the post read, "We will not let BJP burn bridges between Indians. Not in Kashmir. Not in Bengal. Not anywhere."

'Don't go to Muslim majority places'

Earlier, the West Bengal LoP had appealed to the people of the state not to visit places where Muslims are in the majority.

"Don't go to the places where Muslims are in majority. If you want to go to Kashmir, go to Jammu. Don't go... They (terrorists) killed people asking their religion... I want to tell Bengali people don't go to places where Muslims are in majority," LoP had said.*—ANI*

PHOTO: PTI

Varsity paper calls freedom fighters terrorists

PASCHIM MEDINIPUR, 11 JULY

A controversy erupted in West Bengal following a history examination set by Vidyasagar University, where a question referred to Indian freedom fighters as "terrorists." The University's Vice-Chancellor, Dipak Kumar Kar, termed it a "printing mistake" and confirmed that the error arose during the moderation process, and was undetected during proofreading.

In response to the outrage, Kar stated, "I enquired about the matter with the Controller of Examinations and asked for a report. We learned that the error was unintentional." He announced that the teacher responsible for it would be replaced and the Chairman of the Board of Studies would be relieved of their position.

The question has faced widespread condemnation from scholars, civil society groups, and opposition parties, who are demanding accountability from university officials. In a separate incident, a Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader, Rajjak Khan, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in the South 24 Parganas district. The attack occurred around 9.45pm, as Khan returned home. He was taken to hospital but was pronounced dead upon arrival. *—PTI*

UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Dhaba owners left helpless as Kanwariyas attack

MUZZAFARNAGAR, 11 JULY

Once a popular roadside eatery, the Baba Balak Nath Dhaba near the Phaloda bypass now stands as a stark reminder of a brutal act of vandalism by a group of Kanwariyas, all over a few slices of onion in their food.

The owners of the dhaba - Sadhna and Dhiraj Panwar are in quiet despair since 8 July.

It was when a group of Kanwariyas, pilgrims on their way to collect holy water, entered their dhaba. After consuming ten plates of food at Rs 150 each, the group allegedly found some onion slices in their meal and unleashed a destructive rampage.

Kanwariyas carry water collected from the Narmada river during annual Kanwar Yatra in Jabalpur PHOTO: ANI

Sadhna recounted the terrifying incident to PTI on Friday. "They didn't pay a single paisa. Instead, they vandalised our dhaba, causing damage of thousands of rupees ."

Sadhna alleged that they even looted cash and stole beverages from the refrigerator.

The financial blow has been immense for the owners, who were already grappling with financial difficulties before the incident.

"Our customer count has dropped by 70 per cent," Sadhna noted. The violence has driven away their regular clientele, leaving the dhaba eerily empty.

To make matters worse, all but one of their employees have left.

Pintu, a staff member, bore the brunt of the Kanwariyas' fury when he tried to intervene and prevent the destruction.

Doctors have advised Pintu to take three months of rest, during which the Panwars are committed to caring for him despite their struggles.

As of now, the culprits responsible for the vandalism remain at large, but a senior police official assured that the matter is under investigation. *—PTI*

RARE BEAUTY SPOTTED

A caracal, an elusive wild cat, was sighted at the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh's Mandsaur district, where cheetahs were shifted recently as part of the expansion of the cheetah reintroduction programme
PHOTO: PTI

Posts on PM, RSS: SC to hear cartoonist's bail plea

MP HC denies him relief for 'abusing freedom of speech'

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear the anticipatory bail plea of Indore-based cartoonist accused of uploading "objectionable" cartoons of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and RSS workers on social media.

A bench will hear on 14 July the plea filed by Hemant Malviya challenging the Madhya Pradesh High Court order refusing to grant him relief, terming it as misuse of freedom of speech.

The matter pertained to a cartoon made by Malviya 2021 and the high court said no landmark cases, which dealt with life and liberty, will be followed.

A FIR was registered against Malviya in Indore in May on the complaint of local lawyer and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh worker Vinay Joshi.

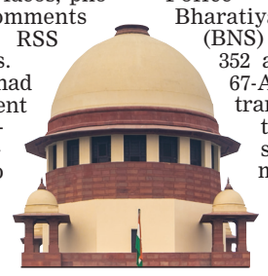
Cartoonist Hemant Malviya
PHOTO: X/@HEMANTMALVIYA73

Joshi alleged that Malviya hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus and disturbed communal harmony by uploading objectionable material on social media.

The FIR mentioned various "objectionable" posts, including allegedly inappropriate comments on Lord Shiva as well as cartoons, videos, photographs and comments regarding Modi, RSS workers and others.

- Joshi alleged that Malviya hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus and disturbed communal harmony in society by uploading objectionable material on social media.

The high court had added it was apparent that it was a deliberate and malicious attempt to outrage religious feelings. and Malviya "clearly overstepped the threshold of freedom of speech and expression."



Malviya's lawyer had contended that he only posted a cartoon andcould not be held responsible for the comments posted on it by other Facebook users.

The FIR accused him of posting indecent and objectionable material with the intention of hurting religious sentiments of Hindus and tarnishing the RSS's image.

Police have invoked Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 299 and 352 as well as section 67-A (publishing or transmitting in electronic form any sexually explicit material) of the Information Technology Act against the accused. *—PTI*

PUNJAB'S WATER ISSUE

Ravi-Beas water tribunal report deadline extended

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The Centre has extended the deadline for the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal to submit its report by another year, pushing the new date to 5 August, 2026, amid continued delays in resolving issues related to the Punjab water settlement.

According to a gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the government cited the "exigencies of the work involved", as flagged by the tribunal, for the extension. The tribunal, constituted under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, is tasked with adjudicating matters related to the distribution of Ravi and Beas river waters between Punjab and its neighbouring states.

After the erstwhile Punjab was reorganised into the two separate states of Punjab and Haryana on 1 November, 1966, disputes arose between the two states in connection with the sharing of the surplus waters of the Ravi and Beas rivers.

Haryana laid claim to 4.8 million acre feet (MAF) of water out of 7.2 MAF (composite Punjab's entitlement) on the principle of equitable distribution. Punjab, however, decided not to share water Haryana on the plea that the latter was not located on the bank of a river.

The Centre then allocated 3.5 MAF of surplus Ravi-Beas waters to Haryana. The tribunal was originally formed in April 1986, and submitted its initial report to the Centre in January, 1987.*—PTI/Agencies*

ED raids Punjab, Haryana in donkey route case

JALANDHAR, 11 JULY

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted fresh raids on Friday in Punjab and Haryana in connection with a money laundering case linked to the illegal immigration 'donkey route'. Searches were carried out at seven locations in Mansa (Punjab) and Kurukshetra and Karnal (Haryana) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). These follow earlier raids on 9 July, during which 30 original passports were recovered. The ED uncovered a network of agents and human traffickers who duped individuals with false promises of legal migration to the US. Victims were instead sent through dangerous, illegal routes across multiple countries, aided by 'donkers'—trafficking intermediaries abroad. The term 'donkey route' refers to the grueling, unlawful journeys migrants endure to enter foreign countries. ***—PTI***

3 Coimbatore blast accused held after 30 yr

CHENNAI, 11 JULY

Three terror suspects were arrested by Tamil Nadu's Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) following months-long operations in coordination with police in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, Director General of Police Shankar Jiwal announced on Friday.

Sadiq, one of the three accused
PHOTO: X

Abubacker Siddique, Mohammed Ali, and Sadiq alias Tailor Raja had been absconding for nearly 30 years. They are wanted in connection with the 1998 Coimbatore serial blasts, which killed 58 and injured over 250, and the 2013 Malleswaram blast in Bengaluru.

Operations Aram and Agazhi led to their arrests—Siddique and Ali were apprehended in Andhra Pradesh's Kadapa district, and Sadiq in Vijayapura, Karnataka. The trio held fake identities, worked in various sectors. *—PTI*

FLOODS IN GURUGRAM

A woman in Gurugram's upscale Golf Course Road returned home after work on 10 July to find her home inundated in rainwater. The road was submerged and so was her car. Houses in this area cost a few crores
PHOTO: Instagram/@sanchiarora.30

US YACHT IN DISTRESS,CREW RESCUED

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The Indian Coast Guard (IGC) has rescued a US yacht in distress and its two crew members after the sailing vessel got stranded in turbulent waters south-east of Indira Point in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

ICG MRCC (Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres) Port Blair received a distress alert from the US Consulate in Chennai on 10 July regarding yacht 'Sea Angel' with an American and a Turkish crew member stranded 52 nautical mile south-east of the Indira Point.

The vessel had got disabled amid extremely rough conditions with a blown sail and entangled propeller. Nearby merchant vessels were alerted. ICGS Rajveer was deployed to render immediate assistance. The yacht was taken under tow and escorted to Campbell Bay. *—PTI*

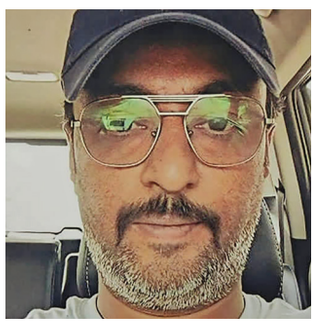
The Indian Coast Guard rescued a US yacht in distress after it was stranded in turbulant waters
PHOTO: X/INDIAN COAST GUARD

Wanted drug producer deported to India from UAE

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

An alleged manufacturer of synthetic narcotics, Kubbawala Mustafa, was deported to India from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday, following a coordinated operation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Interpol, and Mumbai Police, officials confirmed.

Mustafa, who was the subject of an Interpol Red Notice, was brought to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai under escort by a four-member team from the state police. He is accused of running a synthetic drugs factory from abroad. The facility, located in Sangli, Maharashtra, was raided by Mumbai Police, resulting in the seizure of 126.141kg of mephedrone.



Kubbawala Mustafa
PHOTO: ANI

According to a CBI spokesperson, the International Police Cooperation Unit (IPCU) of the CBI, in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Abu Dhabi, played a key role in locating and facilitating the deportation of the accused. Mustafa had been chargesheeted in Mumbai, and a special court had issued an open-ended arrest warrant.

The Red Notice was published on 25 November, 2024, at the request of Mumbai Police. Following confirmation from NCB-Abu Dhabi in June 2025, Indian authorities dispatched a team to the UAE to bring Mustafa back to face justice. *—PTI*

MATTER OF FAITH

Union Minister slams TTD for non-Hindu staff

TIRUPATI, 11 JULY

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, on Friday raised concerns over the reported presence of nearly 1,000 non-Hindu employees within the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD).

He questioned how individuals who do not adhere to Sanatana Dharma or believe in Lord Venkateshwara could continue to serve in such roles.

Speaking to the media, the BJP leader stated that while non-Hindus may have been hired in the past, the lack of corrective action now is alarming and warrants a thorough investigation.

He cited a recent incident in which a TTD employee was suspended for regularly attending church services. Kumar emphasised that visitors of other faiths are required to sign a declaration affirming their belief in the deity. He called for a probe. *—PTI*

Death toll in bridge collapse reaches 19

VADODARA, 11 JULY

The death toll in the Mahisagar river bridge collapse in Gujarat's Vadodara district climbed to 19 on Friday after one of the injured persons succumbed to injuries at a hospital.

The search for the two missing persons is still underway.

Several vehicles plunged into the river after a segment of the four-decade-old bridge collapsed near Gambhira village close to Padra town on Wednesday morning.

18 bodies were recovered till Thursday night.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel suspended four engineers of the state's Roads and Buildings Department in connection with the bridge collapse. A high-level probe committee will submit a detailed report in 30 days. The bridge collapsed due to pedestal and articulation crushing The government identified bridges that need repairs or need to be constructed again. *—PTI*

5,000 sedative-laced cough syrups seized in UP

LUCKNOW, 11 JULY

The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) has arrested a man and seized 5,353 bottles of counterfeit cough syrup from a residence in Lucknow, officials said on Friday. Acting on specific intelligence, officers conducted a raid on Thursday. The seized syrup contained banned sedatives such as Alprazolam and Clonazepam, and was falsely labelled as Codeine-based medicine from reputed pharmaceutical companies. "The accused had no licence or documentation to store or sell such drugs," said Deputy Narcotics Commissioner Praveen Bali. The stock was confiscated under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Authorities said the operation revealed a unique modus operandi, and further investigation is underway to trace the broader network involved. ***—PTI***

'India's population at crossroads, not a crisis'

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

An NGO, Population Foundation of India, has urged a shift away from fear-driven debates on overpopulation or fertility decline, calling instead for policies that centre on dignity, rights, and opportunities, particularly for women, youth, and the elderly.

The NGO, in a statement on World Population Day 2025 on Friday, asserted that India's population challenges are not about numbers but about justice, equity, and investment in human potential.

"India's population story is not a crisis, it's a crossroads," Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director of PFI said.

World Population Day is being observed under the global theme: 'empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world'. While India's Total Fertility Rate is 2.0, over 24 million married women still lack access to contraceptives and have early marriages and unsafe abortions. *—PTI*

Army projects allowed in sanctuaries

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), chaired by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, has greenlit 32 defence projects involving land diversion in protected areas across Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Ladakh, and Sikkim. These initiatives include construction of strategic roads, helipads, training sites, and housing facilities for troops, particularly in Ladakh's vulnerable Karakoram and Changthang sanctuaries.

The diversion of 310 hectares of forest land from Namdapha Tiger Reserve was approved for constructing the Arunachal Frontier Highway
PHOTO: PTI

They include two major Border Roads Organisation projects in the Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh and installations in Gujarat's Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary. In Ladakh proposals were accepted.*—PTI*

Dalit man alleges casteism, priest calls him molester

BARABANKI, 11 JULY

A 27-year-old Dalit man, Shailendra, has reported that he was physically assaulted and prevented from praying at the Lodheshwar Mahadev temple in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh. He alleges that temple priest Aditya Tiwari and his family attacked him, using casteist slurs. Shailendra has since been admitted to the district hospital for his injuries. Conversely, Tiwari claims that Shailendra attempted to molest his daughter-in-law, sparking the confrontation. He asserts that his son intervened, which led to Shailendra's aggressive response. Both parties have lodged complaints with the police. Ramnagar police station's SHO, Anil Kumar Pandey, stated that an investigation is underway, including the review of CCTV footage from the temple. Tiwari maintains that the incident has no ties to caste discrimination, highlighting that many temple attendants are from Dalit and backward communities. ***—PTI***

LIFE SNUFFED OUT

Tennis player's dad was 'taunted' for living off her income

GURUGRAM, 11 JULY

The father of former tennis player Radhika Yadav has confessed that he killed her for being taunted for living off her income.

The player, 25, was shot dead by her father, Deepak Yadav, at the family's double-storey home in Gurugram's Sushant Lok area on 10 July. He later confessed to the crime and was arrested.

Police claimed that the tennis academy Radhika ran was the bone of contention between the father and the daughter. He was mocked by several people for living off her income. However, Deepak owned several rental properties in Gurugram and earned about Rs 17 lakhs a month.

Mortal remains of former tennis player Radhika Yadav being taken for cremation, in Gurugram, on Friday
PHOTO: PTI

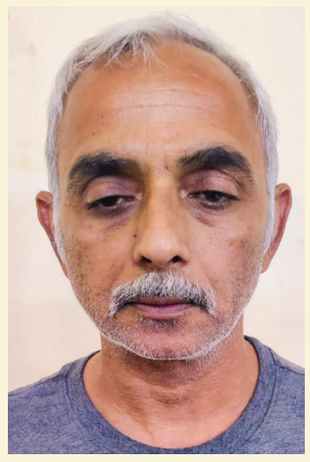
Police were investigating all possible angles in the murder, including what her mother, Manju Yadav was doing when the incident occurred.

The deceased's uncle, Kuldeep Yadav claimed that Manju was present on at home during the murder. The victim's brother Dheeraj was absent at the time.

Police suspect that Radhika featuring in a music video alongside an independent artist might have triggered tensions at home.

Kuldeep on hearing a sound rushed to the upstairs to find his niece lying in a pool of blood in the kitchen. He along with his son, Piyush rushed Radhika in a car to a hospital, where doctors declared her dead. The .32 bore revolver was found in the drawing room.

Deepak reportedly fired five gunshots, four of which hit Radhika, killing her. She had a global ranking of 1,999 in tennis. *—PTI*



Deepak Yadav, accused of killing his daughter, former tennis player Radhika Yadav (right) in Gurugram on 10 July. Yadav had several differences with his daughter that led to the murder. Yadav after his arrest, admitted to have committed the crime
PHOTO: PTI

THE SKY PLACE

A husband-wife archaeologist pair from the University of Houston has found the royal tomb of Te K'ab Chaak, the founder and first king of the ancient Maya city of Caracol's first ruler. The tomb's structure was 141 feet tall and rose into the sky, making the duo name it Caana, which means 'Sky Place'. The pair, Arlen and Diane Chase, after 40 years of excavation, have reached a historic discovery. The city was considered one of the most powerful Mayan cities, thriving with civilisation from AD 800 to 900. Many other tombs of the royal family were also discovered

PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Global trade in limbo as US extends tariffs deadline

US President Donald Trump also teased that he'll declare more tariffs against US trading partners ahead of his latest 1 August, deadline for negotiations ***PHOTO: PTI***

After months of promises to overhaul or eliminate the Federal Emergency Management Agency, President Donald Trump is touting a fast and robust federal response to the devastating Texas floods.

One former agency leader says it's "a defining event that can help them realise that a Federal Emergency Management Agency is essential".

Trump also teased that he'll declare more tariffs against US trading partners ahead of his latest 1 August, deadline for negotiations. The 27-member European Union hopes to seal a trade deal ahead of that date, and meanwhile is preparing retaliatory measures against American products, from beef to Boeing jets.

Hosting West African leaders as USAID

The agenda of Trump's "multilateral lunch" Wednesday with the leaders of Liberia, Senegal, Gabon, Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau includes economic development, security, infrastructure and democracy, according to a statement from the Liberian presidency.

The White House has not provided further details.

The surprise meeting comes as Trump takes radical steps to reshape the US relationship with Africa, dissolving the US Agency for International Development and shifting from what the administration calls "a charity-based foreign aid model" to partnerships with nations that have "the ability and willingness to help themselves".

A study published in the Lancet medical journal projects Trump's shift will lead to more than 14 million additional deaths globally by 2030, including 4.5 million children.

West Africa possesses untapped resources. They're also among countries that might fall under an expansion of Trump's travel ban.

Russia: Tariffs threat violate free trade principles

Russia's Foreign Ministry accused the US Wednesday of hinting at potential tariffs against the trade alliance of Brazil, Russia, India and China as a form of political pressure.

Spokesperson Maria Zakharova said unilaterally applying such tariffs would destroy the existing architecture for international economic cooperation. She accused Washington of "hiding" behind principles such as fair competition and national security.

Trump's threat "grossly violates the rules of the WTO and the principles of free trade, which, until recently, Washington insisted on as a universal truth," Zakharova told journalists.

Trump teases more letters on trade being sent

"We will be releasing a minimum of 7 countries having to do with trade, tomorrow morning, with an additional number of Countries being released in the afternoon," he said Tuesday night in a post on his social platform.

Trump has for several days teased letters listing tariffs that the administration plans to impose on different countries — even as it also continues to negotiate trade deals. So far, Trump's trade blitz has produced lots of uncertainty but deals with just two countries — the United Kingdom and Vietnam.

Trump avoids talk of scrapping FEMA

The President has avoided talking about his plan to scrap the federal disaster response agency after the catastrophic flash flood in Texas that killed more than 100 people, including children attending a girls-only camp.

Asked shortly after the disaster whether he still intended to phase out the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Trump said it wasn't the right time to talk about it. Nor did he mention such plans during a nearly two-hour meeting with his Cabinet on Tuesday.

Instead Trump opened the meeting by having Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem talk about her visit to Kerrville, Texas, a day after floodwaters swept away riverside campers and homeowners in the wee hours of the Fourth of July holiday. *—PTI*

LETTERS

write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

SALAR سالار

Alive by day, but by night Ukraine is a battleground

The noise of the buzzing drones leave many people chronically exhausted from lack of sleep ***PHOTO: FREEPIK***

By day, the Ukrainian capital hums with life — crowded metros, dog walkers and children on playgrounds. By night, Kyiv becomes a battleground as Russia unleashes relentless drone and missile attacks that chase much of the population underground for safety.

The nighttime assaults have intensified in the fourth year of the full-scale invasion, with the number of drones sometimes exceeding 700. Swarms of 1,000 drones could soon become the norm, officials say.

Many people in Kyiv describe the recent attacks as the most terrifying of the war, and even residents who previously ignored sirens have been driven into bomb shelters in the subway system.

"During the day, you walk around, drink coffee, smile, meet friends, talk, have hobbies, chill," said 25-year-old Karyna Holf. "But at night, you brace for death every time you hear the sound of a Shahed drone or a missile."

A Russian attack on Thursday badly damaged her apartment. She was in the living room near a window when she heard the whistling sound of an incoming weapon. Moments later, the home shattered into pieces. She was lucky to survive.

The constant proximity to death often fuels dark humour. At night, many are paralysed by fear. But by day, they joke that they don't sleep naked, just in case they end up under rubble and rescuers have to pull them out.

"It's like a computer game where you try to survive and still remain functional," said 35-year-old Danylo Kuzemskyi, describing the balance between daily life and war.

The buzzing of drones — often ending in explosions — and the constant thud of air defences can last for hours. The noise leaves many people chronically exhausted from lack of sleep.

The drones blanket wide areas of the city, covered in darkness pierced only by the flashes of air defence fire. The air is filled with smoke and the smell of gunpowder.

Since the beginning of the year, more than 800 sites in Kyiv have been hit, including over 600 residential buildings, said the head of the Kyiv city administration, Tymur Tkachenko.

"They are deliberately hitting apartment buildings and urban districts," he said. "This is their tactic — to spread fear and increase the number of civilian casualties."

Russia insists that it strikes only military targets, though there are abundant examples throughout the war of civilian infrastructure being hit.

The attacks have also strengthened the solidarity among Kyiv residents. On social media, people post with pride that they can still grab a cappuccino in the morning, make it to a workout or keep their appointments — without cancelling a thing.

"I understand that Russia's terror is aimed not only at military targets but at the entire Ukrainian people. Russia is trying to demoralise us," said Kuzemskyi, whose apartment was destroyed in a previous attack. "Is it succeeding? In my case, I'd say no."

He is among those who no longer go to shelters during attacks, saying he now "prioritises sleep" over safety.

For 23-year-old Oleksandra Umanets, who has a 10-month-old son, the shelter in the subway feels safer than her home at night.

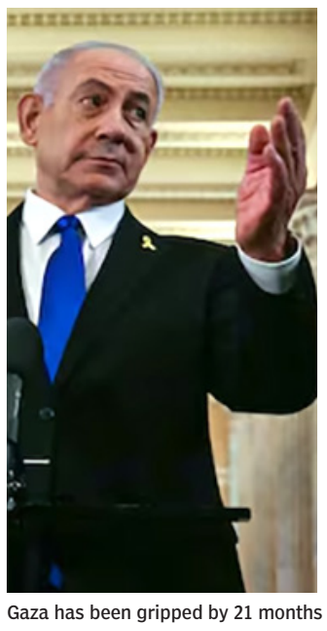
Around 5am, she usually leaves the shelter with her child, walks home, lies down to sleep and wakes up relieved to see her baby smiling. "I see the same kids running, playing — and moms who are smiling," she said of their walks during the day. "You wouldn't guess they spent the night in the metro or didn't sleep at all, even though everyone knows it. But no one talks about it. Everyone just keeps living."

Then evening comes. She packs a bag, places it by the door, prepares the stroller and lays out clothes for herself and her baby. When the siren sounds again, she's ready to hide.

"When it's about you — that's one thing. But when it's about your child, for what?" she said. "To kill him just for being born in Ukraine? He didn't choose where to be born." *—PTI*

Russia insists that it strikes only military targets, though there are abundant examples throughout the war of civilian infrastructure being hit ***PHOTO: FREEPIK***

As Netanyahu wraps US visit, Gaza's ceasefire progress stays murky



Gaza has been gripped by 21 months of war between Hamas and Israel ***PHOTO: FREEPIK***

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attended a memorial service on Thursday for two slain Israeli Embassy staffers as he wraps up a four-day visit to Washington in which talks with President Donald Trump, White House aides and lawmakers focused on finding a pathway to a ceasefire deal in Gaza.

But as Netanyahu gets set to head back to Israel, it is unclear if there was any breakthrough on sealing a Trump-backed 60-day truce between Israel and Hamas, which the US leader believes can lead to a permanent end to the 21-month war in Gaza.

Netanyahu said in a video released Thursday that he is trying to wrap up the US-backed deal but stressed it will be "temporary" and would be aimed at releasing the final 50 hostages who remain in captivity in Gaza.

The Prime Minister also underscored that in any potential ceasefire agreement he will not budge from his fundamental demand that Hamas lay down its arms and no longer have any governing or military capabilities—something the group so far has rejected.

"These are our basic conditions," Netanyahu said. "If this can be achieved through negotiations — so much the better. If it is not achieved through negotiations in 60 days, we will achieve it in other ways — by using force, the force of our heroic army."

With his attendance at the memorial for the slain embassy staffers, Netanyahu once again sought to spotlight "antisemitic brutality" that Jews around the globe have faced as the Israeli Defense Forces have waged operations in Gaza.

Yaron Lischinsky, 30, and Sarah Lynn Milgrim, 26, two colleagues who had been on the verge of getting engaged, were fatally shot 22 May, as they were leaving a reception for young diplomats at Washington's Capital Jewish Museum.

Sara Netanyahu, the Israeli leader's wife and a psychologist, signed a letter of condolence at the embassy, saying, "May their memory be blessed." Family members of the two were among those attending the service, held at the Israeli embassy, the Prime Minister's office said in a statement.

A suspect was arrested in the shootings and shouted "Free Palestine" as he was led away. Charging documents said he later told police, "I did it for Palestine, I did it for Gaza."

Trump views the current moment as a potential turning point in the brutal conflict that has left more than 57,000 dead in the Palestinian territory.

The Gaza Health Ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants in its death count.

Hamas is still capable of landing fatal blows to Israeli forces. But US officials believe that the group's been significantly diminished as its centralized command and control capabilities have deteriorated over the course of the conflict.

Meanwhile, Hamas' chief backer Iran was badly battered last month by 12 days of strikes by Israel and the United States on Tehran's key nuclear facilities.

US officials remain hopeful that restarting high-level negotiations — mediated by Egypt and Qatar and including White House envoy Steve Witkoff — will happen soon and could bring progress.

"We're closer than we've been in quite a while, and we're hopeful, but we also recognize there's still some challenges in the way," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters while attending the annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Senior Trump administration officials, including Witkoff, met with Israeli Minister for Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer as well as Qatari officials at the White House on Tuesday to discuss sticking points in the talks.

This included Israel's desire for its military to retain control over parts of Gaza during a potential 60-day truce, according to a White House official.

Asked about the meeting this week, Trump did not confirm that "secret" talks had happened, but said if they did, he hoped the engagement "gets us to where we want to be."

"We want to have peace. We want to get the hostages back. And I think we're close to doing it," Trump added. *—PTI*

Kurdish fighters in Iraq begin laying down arms

SULAYMANIYAH, 11 JULY

Fighters with a Kurdish separatist militant group that has waged a decades-long insurgency in Turkey began laying down their weapons in a symbolic ceremony Friday in northern Iraq, the first concrete step toward a promised disarmament as part of a peace process. The Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, announced in May it would disband and renounce armed conflict, ending four decades of hostilities. The event was held in the mountains outside the city of Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq's semiautonomous Kurdish region. The state-run Iraqi News Agency reported that "the process will take place in stages, with a group of party members initially laying down their weapons "symbolically." The disarmament process is expected to be completed by September, the agency reported. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Bangladesh arrests popular economist for corruption

DHAKA, 11 JULY

Abul Barkat, a prominent Bangladeshi economist and former chairman of Janata Bank, was arrested on Thursday night by the Detective Branch of the police on corruption allegations linked to a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). His daughter reported that the arrest was conducted without a warrant during a midnight raid. Barkat, who has served at Dhaka University for four decades, is accused of embezzling funds in a loan fraud case involving the company Anontex. His family expressed their alarm over the lack of prior investigation and their readiness to cooperate with any official inquiry. Barkat's arrest comes amid rising concerns over minority persecution in Bangladesh and recent protests. *—ANI*

Pak model may have died 10 mths ago, says report

KARACHI, 11 JULY

Pakistani actress-model Humaira Asghar Ali, whose body was discovered earlier this week in an apartment in Karachi's upmarket Defence Housing Society, died eight to 10 months ago, according to initial post-mortem findings. Humaira, 32, lived alone and had acted in several television serials and also in two films. A police team found her decomposed body last week while executing a court order to vacate the flat. The body was severely decomposed and unrecognisable at the time of recovery, Geo News reported on Friday, citing the post-mortem report. *—PTI*

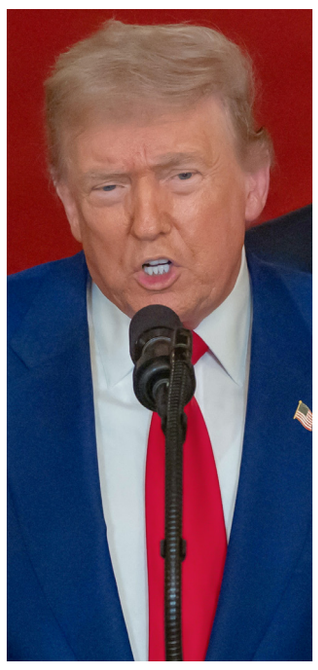
At least 23 killed in strike on Myanmar monastery

BANGKOK, 11 JULY

An airstrike on a Buddhist monastery in Myanmar's central Sagaing region killed at least 23 people who were taking shelter in the compound, sources said Friday. The overnight aerial attack on the monastery in Lin Ta Lu village, in Sagaing region's Sagaing township, injured about 30 other people, of which 10 were in a critical condition, according to a member of a resistance group. The resistance member told The Associated Press that 23 civilians including four children were killed after a jet fighter dropped a bomb around 1am on a building in the village's monastery where more than 150 people from nearby villages were taking shelter to avoid fighting in the region in recent weeks. Myanmar's independent Democratic Voice of Burma online media reported that the death toll could be as high as 30. That could not be immediately confirmed. *—PTI*

TRUMP TO HIKE TARIFFS ON CANADA TO 35%

Canada PM posts pic with UK's Starmer to boast about ties



Donald Trump *PHOTO PTI*

WASHINGTON/ RIO DE JANERIO, 11 JULY

US President Donald Trump said in a Thursday letter that he will raise taxes on imported goods from Canada to 35 per cent, deepening a rift between two North American countries.

The letter to Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney is an aggressive increase to the 25 per cent tariff first announced by Trump in February, allegedly in an effort to get Canada to crackdown on fentanyl smuggling despite the relatively modest trafficking in the drug. The higher rates would go into effect 1 August.

"I must mention that the flow of Fentanyl is hardly the only challenge we have with Canada, which has many tariff, and non-tariff, policies and trade barriers," Trump wrote.

Hours before Trump's letter, Carney posted on X a picture of himself with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, saying, "In the face of global trade challenges, the world is turning to reliable economic partners like Canada."

Carney was elected Prime Minister in April on the argument that Canadians should keep their "elbows up."

BRAZIL FIGHTS BACK

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said Thursday that he will impose retaliatory tariffs on the US if Trump follows through on a pledge to boost import taxes by 50 per cent over the South American country's criminal trial against former president Jair Bolsonaro.

"If there's no negotiation, the reciprocity law will be put to work. If he charges 50 (per cent tariffs) from us, we will charge 50 from them," Lula told TV Record in excerpts of an interview that will be fully aired later in the day. "Respect is good. I like to offer mine and I like to receive it." *—PTI*

Layoff notices are coming soon: US State Dept

The US State Department formally advised staffers on Thursday that it would be sending layoff notices to some of them soon, coming as part of dramatic changes to the agency that the Trump administration announced earlier this year.

Abrego Garcia could be deported

The Trump administration hasn't decided where it would deport Kilmar Abrego Garcia if he is freed from a Tennessee jail, but a US immigration official said Thursday that Mexico and South Sudan could be willing to accept the El Salvador native.

Head Start will be cut off for immigrants

The Trump administration will restrict immigrants in the country illegally from enrolling in Head Start, a federally funded preschool program, the Department of Health and Human Services announced Thursday. People in the country illegally are largely ineligible for federal public benefits like food stamps.

Rubio meets China's FM in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 JULY

Japan's Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Kuala Lumpur on Friday *PHOTO: PTI*

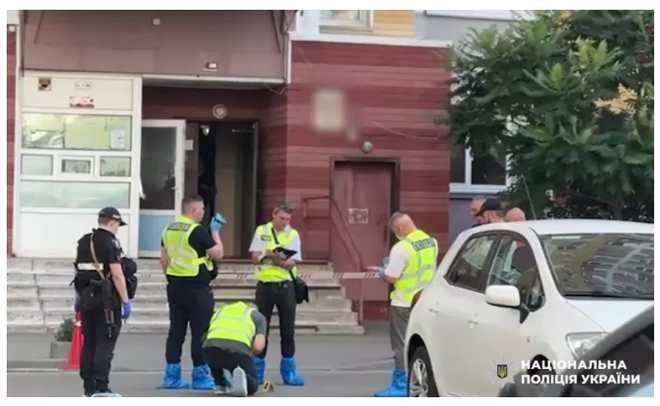
US Secretary of State Marco Rubio wrapped up his second and final day at a Southeast Asian security conference in a high-stakes meeting with his Chinese counterpart as tensions grow between Washington and Beijing over issues from trade to security and China's support for Russia's war in Ukraine.

After discussions with regional countries at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations forum in Malaysia, Rubio on Friday ended his first official trip to Asia with his first face-to-face talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

"I think the Chinese clearly have been supportive of the Russian (invasion of Ukraine), and I think that generally they've been willing to help them as much as they can without getting caught," Rubio said.

Rubio and Wang have been shadowboxing during the two-day ASEAN meeting, with each touting the benefits of their partnership to Southeast Asian nations.

"The US is abusing tariffs, wrecking the free trade system and disrupting the stability of the global supply chain," Wang told his Thai counterpart Maris Sangiampongsa, according the Chinese Foreign Ministry. *—PTI*



The scene of the death of an SBU colonel in Kyiv on Wednesday, July 10, 2025 *PHOTO: UKRAINE'S NATIONAL POLICE*

Ukrainian Security Colonel shot dead in Kyiv

KYIV, 11 JULY

A senior colonel of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), identified as Ivan Voronych, was shot dead in a residential parking lot in Kyiv on Thursday, according to authorities and verified video footage. The assailant reportedly fired five rounds from a pistol before fleeing on foot in broad daylight. The SBU has launched a criminal investigation into the attack, which took place in the Holosiivskyi district. A spokesperson stated, "The Security Service and the National Police are taking comprehensive measures to clarify all circumstances of the crime."

Motives for the assassination remain unclear, though some pro-Kremlin bloggers applauded the act, speculating on possible involvement by Russian security forces. CCTV footage showed the shooting incident, supported by timestamps and location verification by Reuters.

Meanwhile, countries willing to supply troops for a post-ceasefire force in Ukraine convened in Paris to establish a rapid deployment headquarters following the cessation of hostilities in the ongoing war with Russia. Notably, a US delegation attended for the first time, indicating a potential shift in international involvement in the conflict and post-war reconstruction efforts. *—Agencies*

Baloch militants abduct, kill 9 in Pak's Punjab

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI, 11 JULY

Baloch insurgents shot and killed nine passengers from Punjab after offloading them from passenger buses in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, authorities said on Friday.

The incident took place late on Thursday on the national highway in the Sur-Dakai area of Zhob district, said Assistant Commissioner Zhob Naveed Alam. The armed insurgents stopped two Punjab-bound buses and checked the ID cards of travellers before offloading nine passengers and shooting them dead.

"Nine people abducted from both coaches have been killed, and their bodies have been recovered," Alam said, adding that all nine belonged to different parts of the Punjab province.

The Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), a banned outfit known for attacking the security forces, claimed responsibility for the gruesome murders. "We have moved the nine bodies to the hospital for post-mortem and burial procedures," Alam said.

Meanwhile, the BLf carried out simultaneous attacks across multiple districts, disrupting internet connectivity, halting train services and blocking key sections of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

BLF said in a statement, "The Balochistan Liberation Front has announced that 80 per cent of the objectives of its ongoing military campaign, Operation Baam, have been successfully achieved…So far, over 70 coordinated attacks have been carried out across Balochistan under this operation." *—PTI/ANI*

NEARLY 200 HOMES DAMAGED AS FLASH FLOODS HIT NEW MEXICO

RUIDOSO, 11 JULY

A house is carried away by flash flooding in Ruidoso on Tuesday *PHOTO: PTI*

At least 200 homes were damaged during a deadly flash flood in the mountain village of Ruidoso, and local emergency managers warned on Wednesday that the number could more than double as the teams survey more neighbourhoods.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham was among the officials who took an aerial tour of Ruidoso and the surrounding area as they looked to bolster their case for more federal assistance for the community, which has been battered over the past year by wildfires and repeated flooding.

The governor said the state has received partial approval for a federal emergency declaration, freeing up personnel to help with search and rescue efforts and incident management. She called it the first step, saying Ruidoso will need much more.

"We will continue working with the federal government for every dollar and resources necessary to help this resilient community fully recover from these devastating floods," she said. *—PTI*

EU TO SUPPLY FOOD, FUEL

Smoke rises to the sky following an Israeli army bombardment in the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday *PHOTO: PTI*

Israeli strikes kill 10 children waiting outside Gaza hosp

DEIR AL-BALAH, 10 JULY

Israeli airstrikes killed 15, including 10 children, waiting for help outside a medical clinic in Gaza. The Israeli military said it was targeting a militant when it struck near the clinic.

However, security camera footage outside the clinic in the central Gaza city of Deir al Balah showed about a dozen people squatting in front of the clinic when a projectile explodes a few meters (yards) away, leaving bodies scattered.

In total, Israeli strikes overnight and early Thursday, killed at least 36 Palestinians, local hospitals and aid workers said. The Israeli military said one soldier was killed in Gaza.

Hours later, European officials reached a new deal with Israel to allow desperately needed food and fuel into Gaza, the European Union's Foreign Policy Chief said Thursday.

The deal could result in "more crossings open, aid and food trucks entering Gaza, repair of vital infrastructure and protection of aid workers," said Kaja Kallas, the 27-member EU's top diplomat.

Aid groups say Israeli military restrictions have made it difficult to deliver assistance, as experts warn that the Strip is at risk of famine, 21 months into the war.

Kallas said the deal would reactivate aid corridors from Jordan and Egypt and reopen community bakeries and kitchens across Gaza.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar acknowledged the deal while at a conference in Vienna, saying it followed "our dialogue with the EU". *—PTI*

Iran recovered enriched uranium at US-hit nuclear site: Israel

WASHINGTON/ DUBAI, 11 JULY

Israel believes deeply buried stocks of enriched uranium at one Iranian nuclear facility hit by the US military are potentially retrievable, a senior Israeli official said.

Meanwhile, two officials from the US Defence Threat Reduction Agency, the agency which spent decades designing US "bunker buster" bombs dropped on two other nuclear sites said that they did not know if the munitions reached their targets.

The developments widens the views on the damage from last month's strikes.

President Donald Trump is adamant that the US strikes "obliterated" the three Iranian nuclear facilities it targeted. International assessments and an initial US intelligence assessment have been more measured, with the US Defence Intelligence Agency saying in a preliminary report that the strikes did significant damage to the Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan sites, but did not destroy them.

Israel believes Iran's enriched uranium was distributed in the three sites and had not been moved, the Israeli official said. Earlier, experts warned that Iranians may have moved the stockpiles anticipating strikes.

The enriched uranium at Isfahan could potentially be retrieved by Iranians but reaching it would take a very difficult recovery effort, the Israeli official added.

IRAN STRIKES IN QATAR

The Iranian attack on an air base in Qatar key to the US military likely hit a geodesic dome housing equipment used by the Americans for secure communications, satellite images analysed Friday by The Associated Press show. The Iranian attack otherwise did little damage. *—PTI*

SINKING ECONOMY

Half of Pakistanis live below poverty line: WB

ISLAMABAD, 11 JULY

The World Bank reports that 44.7 per cent of Pakistan's polulation live below USD4.20/day *PHOTO: X*

Pakistan's poverty crisis continues to spiral out of control, with the World Bank's 2025 assessment revealing a shocking 44.7 per cent of the population living below the USD 4.20/day poverty line, according to Geo News.

The report further highlights that extreme poverty, defined by the World Bank's USD 3.00/day threshold, has surged to 16.5 per cent from a previously reported 4.9 per cent, demonstrating that millions more Pakistanis are sinking deeper into destitution. Meanwhile, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) indicates that over 30 per cent of Pakistan's population suffers from severe deprivation in health, education, and living standards.

In stark contrast, neighbouring countries like China, Bangladesh, and Nepal have managed to make meaningful progress in poverty alleviation through targeted strategies, industrial growth, and social reforms.

China has slashed its extreme poverty rate below 1 per cent, and Bangladesh's microfinance and garment sectors have propelled millions out of poverty despite recent setbacks. Even Nepal boasts a poverty rate below 2.2 per cent.

Pakistan's struggle is compounded by bloated social welfare programs like the Benazir Income Support Programme, which, despite increased funding, remain patchwork solutions unable to break the cycle of poverty. Overreliance on these handouts without integrating effective poverty graduation methods leaves millions trapped in dependency, as Geo News reports. *—ANI*

Markets slide in a row for 3rd session

Benchmark indices Sensex tanks by 689.81 points while Nifty drops by 205.40 points

MUMBAI, 11 JULY

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined for the third session in a row on Friday, dropping nearly 1 per cent, dragged by heavy selling in IT, auto and energy stocks amid a muted start of the earnings season.

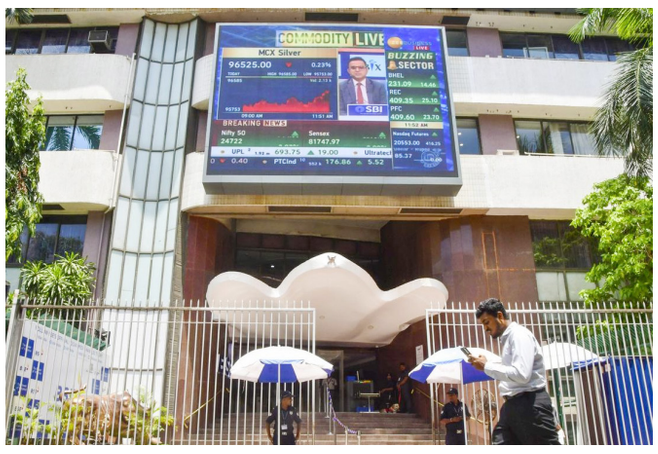
Tariff-related uncertainties and mixed global market trends also added to the pressure, analysts said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 689.81 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 82,500.47. During the day, it fell 748.03 points or 0.89 per cent to 82,442.25.

As many as 2,450 stocks declined while 1,557 advanced and 158 remained unchanged on BSE.

Similarly, the 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 205.40 points or 0.81 per cent to 25,149.85.

On the weekly front, BSE benchmark dropped 932.42 points or 1.11 per cent, and the Nifty tanked 311.15 points or 1.22 per cent.



As many as 2,450 stocks declined while 1,557 advanced and 158 remained unchanged on BSE **PHOTO: PTI**

From the Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services declined 3.46 per cent after reporting its June quarter earnings.

The country's largest IT services company on Thursday reported a 6 per cent growth in June quarter net profit at Rs 12,760 crore, helped by a jump in non-core income even as revenues grew at a tepid pace.

The rupee revenue grew 1.3 per cent to Rs 63,437 crore during the quarter. Still, it was down by over 3 per cent on a constant currency basis, as the company faced headwinds in its major markets amid a winding down of the BSNL deal, which helped it in recent quarters.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors, Titan, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance, Reliance Industries, Trent, Infosys and HDFC Bank were among the other major laggards from the pack. Axis Bank, NTPC, Eternal and State Bank of India were also among the gainers. The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.70 per cent, and the midcap index dropped 0.65 per cent. In contrast, healthcare and FMCG were the gainers. *—PTI*

TCS SHARES MOVE DOWN BY 3.50%

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Shares of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) dropped nearly 3.50 per cent on Friday after its June quarter earnings failed to enthuse investors. The bellwether stock declined 3.46 per cent to settle at Rs 3,265.40 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it dropped 3.57 per cent to Rs 3,261.35. On the NSE, it went lower by 3.47 per cent to Rs 3,264.50. The TCS valuation eroded by Rs 42,295.44 crore to Rs 11,81,450.30 crore. The stock was the biggest laggard among the Sensex and Nifty firms. Other IT stocks too faced selling pressure, with Wipro, HCL Tech, Infosys and Tech Mahindra ending in the negative territory.

In the equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 689.81 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 82,500.47. Similarly, the 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 205.40 points or 0.81 per cent to 25,149.85. "Dalal Street faced a broad-based selloff on Friday, as weak earnings from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) triggered sharp profit-booking across sectors," Gaurav Garg, Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk, said. The TCS reported a 6 per cent growth in the June quarter net profit at Rs 12,760 crore, helped by a jump in non-core income even as revenues grew at a tepid pace. *—PTI*

Gold climbs by ₹700, settles at ₹99,370/10g

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Gold prices climbed by Rs 700 to Rs 99,370 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday tracking safe-haven demand as heightened global trade tensions stoked investor worries. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 98,670 per 10 grams on Thursday. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped by Rs 600 to Rs 98,800 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had ended at Rs 98,200 per 10 grams in the previous market close. In addition, silver prices rallied by Rs 1,500 to Rs 1,05,500 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Friday. The white metal had finished at Rs 1,04,000 per kg on Thursday. *—PTI*

Rupee falls 7P to close at 85.77 against USD

MUMBAI, 11 JULY

The rupee depreciated seven paise to close at 85.77 against the US dollar on Friday, driven by weak domestic markets and risk-off sentiments amid trade tariff uncertainty. Forex traders said global market sentiments were dented as US President Donald Trump imposed 35 per cent tariffs on Canadian goods. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 85.76 against the US dollar, and touched an intra-day low of 85.91 during the day. The local unit finally settled for the day at 85.77, down 7 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee settled for the day higher by 3 paise at 85.70 against the US dollar. Forex traders said rupee traded in a volatile but narrow range. *—PTI*

Ajoy Chawla to be Titan Co MD from Jan

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Tata group firm Titan Company Ltd on Friday announced top management changes with Ajoy Chawla set to become its Managing Director from 1 January, 2026, succeeding incumbent CK Venkataraman. Chawla is currently the CEO of the company's jewellery division, Titan Company said in a regulatory filing. As part of the changes, Arun Narayan, head of Tanishq India business, will become CEO of its jewellery division from January 1, 2026, while Kuruvilla Markose, currently the CEO of the company's international business division, will succeed Suparna Mitra as the CEO of the watches division with effect from August 13, 2025, it added. Mitra, CEO of the Watches Division, has resigned with effect from August 12, 2025, it added. *—PTI*

INOX Clean Energy seeks Rs 6B in landmark IPO

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

INOX Clean Energy has confidentially submitted draft documents to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for an Initial Public Offering (IPO) aimed at raising Rs 6,000 crore, potentially making it the largest IPO in India's clean energy sector. The company, part of the USD 12 billion INOXGFL Group, plans to dilute over 10 per cent of its equity, targeting a market capitalisation of approximately Rs 50,000 crore. According to industry sources, the IPO will primarily consist of a fresh issue of shares, with proceeds earmarked for new solar facilities and independent power production projects.With current operations of 157 MW and a construction pipeline exceeding 400 MW, INOX Clean Energy is expanding its footprint in renewable projects and solar manufacturing through its subsidiaries. *—PTI*

Glenmark shares zoom 10%; touches upper circuit limit

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The stock surged 9.99 per cent to hit its 52-week high as well as the upper circuit limit of Rs 2,095.65 on the BSE. At the NSE, it zoomed 10 per cent to Rs 2,094.40 — its 52-week high as well as upper circuit level **PHOTO: ANI**

Shares of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals (GP) on Friday jumped 10 per cent after the firm said it has signed a deal with AbbVie to commmercialise its underdevelopment drug aimed to treat cancer and autoimmune diseases in an up to USD 2 billion deal, one of the largest transactions in the pharma sector.

The stock surged 9.99 per cent to hit its 52-week high as well as the upper circuit limit of Rs 2,095.65 on the BSE. At the NSE, the stock zoomed 10 per cent to Rs 2,094.40 — its 52-week high as well as upper circuit level.

The GP's arm Ichnos Glenmark Innovation has signed the deal for its lead investigational asset ISB 2001. The ISB 2001, targeted for the treatment of cancer and autoimmune diseases, has been developed using Ichnos Glenmark Innovation's (IGI) proprietary BEAT protein platform for oncology and autoimmune diseases, the GP said in a regulatory filing. Under the agreement, the IGI grants AbbVie exclusive rights to globally develop, manufacture and commercialise ISB 2001 across North America, Europe, Japan and China.

On the other hand, he GP will develop, manufacture and lead commercialisation of ISB 2001 across emerging markets, including the rest of Asia, Latin America, the Russia/CIS region, the Middle East, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea, the company said.

"Subject to regulatory clearance, IGI will receive an upfront payment of USD 700 million and is eligible to receive up to USD 1.225 billion in development, regulatory, and commercial milestone payments," IGI said in a statement. *—PTI*

RESPONSE TO CHINA

Govt to provide ₹1,345 cr for rare earth magnet production

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The Indian government is in the midst of inter-ministerial consultations regarding a significant Rs 1,345 crore scheme aimed at subsidising the production of rare earth magnets. Union Heavy Industries Minister HD Kumaraswamy announced on Friday that the initiative is designed to offer incentives to two selected manufacturers in a bid to strengthen the domestic supply chain for these critical components.

The scheme has emerged in response to China's recent restrictions on rare earth magnet exports, which have disrupted global supplies and adversely affected electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers, including those in India. The proposed initiative will provide comprehensive support for the conversion of rare earth oxides into magnets, crucial for various high-performance applications.

Kamran Rizvi, Secretary in the Heavy Industries Ministry, elaborated that the scheme is designed to incentivise any manufacturer capable of producing rare earth magnets, emphasising that this outline is currently undergoing inter-ministerial consultation.

The subsidy is expected to encourage investment in processing facilities, which will enable companies to efficiently turn rare earth oxides into magnets. Indian Rare Earth Magnets Ltd, a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Atomic Energy, remains the sole entity handling rare earth materials in India.

Rare earth magnets, particularly neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB), are essential for high-performance automotive applications, including traction motors in electric vehicles and power steering systems in conventional vehicles. *—PTI*

The Shiprocket is in partnership with Ultrasafe to support multilingual commerce and scalable automation **PHOTO: X/ SYED SHAHNAWAZ**

Shiprocket launches AI model Shunya.ai

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

E-commerce enablement platform Shiprocket on Friday launched a multimodal AI engine, Shunya.ai, for MSMEs and D2C businesses.

The AI stack is developed to support multilingual commerce, regional customer experiences, and scalable automation, the company said in a statement.

"Developed in partnership with Ultrasafe Inc. through a joint venture, Shunya.ai brings together voice, text, and image intelligence in 9-plus Indian languages, built, trained, and hosted entirely within India. The platform is set to reach over 1 lakh MSMEs within the first year, driving time and cost savings across cataloguing, marketing, fulfilment, and customer engagement workflows," it said.

With this launch, Shiprocket looks to tap into India's USD 1 trillion MSME economy and growing digital commerce opportunity, projected to reach USD 350 billion by 2030. MSMEs account for over 30 per cent of the country's Gross Value Added (GVA).

Shunya.ai, trained on Indian commerce data, is hosted entirely within the country, and purpose-built for domestic law and use cases. *—PTI*

Ford recalls over 850K cars sold in US

NEW YORK, 10 JULY

Ford is recalling more than 8,50,000 of its cars across the US because the low-pressure fuel pump inside the vehicles are likely to fail and potentially cause an engine stall while driving, increasing crash risks.

The recall covers a wide range of Ford and Lincoln-branded vehicles made in recent model years. That includes certain Ford Broncos, Explorers and F-150s, as well as Lincoln Aviators and Navigators, documents published this week by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration note.

Ford plans to send out notification letters to affected owners starting this Monday (July 14), to warn of safety risks related to potential fuel pu mp failure. But a remedy is still "un der deve lopment," the NHTSA's recall report notes.

It wasn't immediately clear if there was an estimate for when a fix would become available. But this week's recall report noted that owners will receive an additional letter with instructions to take their car to an authorised dealer for that service when the time comes – and that there will be no charge.

The Associated Press could not receive further comments from Ford on Thursday. *—PTI*

Apple unfazed by Chinese techies leaving Foxconn, says sources

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The Indian government is monitoring production targets at Foxconn amid the return of hundreds of Chinese professionals from the electronics manufacturer's plant, sources said on Friday. The engineers had been overseeing assembly lines, factory layout, and training for iPhone production in India. Their departure raised concerns about potential disruption to the upcoming iPhone 17 series.

However, a senior official said Apple has alternatives to manage the situation and the matter is primarily between Apple and Foxconn. "The government facilitated visas for Chinese workers. It is now up to companies to ensure production remains unaffected," the source added.

Industry insiders have downplayed concerns, stating that the production of iPhone 17 remains on track, with Apple continuing its push to scale up operations in India. Foxconn and Tata Electronics, Apple's key vendors, are also experiencing smoother imports of capital goods from China. Apple plans to ramp up Indian production to 60 million units this year, up from 35–40 million in 2024–25. *—PTI*

HUL shares surges after Priya Nair appointed CEO

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

Shares of Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) on Friday surged 5 per cent following announcement that Priya Nair will become the first woman CEO and MD of the firm effective 1 August, 2025.

The stock jumped 5 per cent to Rs 2,529.85 on the BSE.

At the NSE, shares of the firm climbed 5 per cent to Rs 2,529.90.

Priya Nair will become the first woman CEO and MD of Hindustan Unilever Ltd effective 1 August, 2025, with India's largest FMCG firm announcing her appointment on Thursday.

Nair, currently President, Beauty & Wellbeing, Unilever, has been appointed for a period of five years.

She replaces Rohit Jawa who will step down as CEO and MD on 31 July, 2025.

Jawa took over as the CEO and MD of HUL in 2023.

Nair will also join the HUL Board, subject to necessary approvals, and continue to be a member of the Unilever Leadership Executive (ULE), the company added. *—PTI*

INDIA NEEDS MORE EVS

Tesla to open 1st experience centre in India next week

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

PHOTO: X/TESLA

Global EV giant Tesla is all set to officially enter India with the opening of its first experience centre at Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex next week. The Elon Musk-led firm has sent out select invites presenting the inaugural event as the "launch of Tesla in India".

Tesla could not be reached for comments.

Last month, Tesla India took on lease 24,565 square feet warehousing space in Lodha Logistics Park in Mumbai for a period of five years. In June, Union Heavy Industries Minister HD Kumaraswamy stated that the electric carmaker is not interested in manufacturing cars in India but keen on establishing showrooms in the country.

US President Donald Trump has said that if Tesla were to build a factory in India to circumvent that country's tariffs, it would be "unfair" to the US.

Elon Musk had said in April last year that his visit to India had been delayed due to the company's heavy obligations.

However, earlier this year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stated that India will not tailor its policies to suit Tesla, and its laws and tariff rules will be formulated to attract all-electric vehicle manufacturers from across the globe to set up a base in the world's fastest-growing economy.

The Indian government ecognises the need for a vibrant EV ecosystem as greater use of battery-run vehicles will cut carbon emissions, he stated. *— PTI*

GROK 4: WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL AI MODEL

Tesla CEO Elon Musk launched Grok 4, a multimodal generative AI, on July, 2025. This new version generates both images and texts, also featuring Eve, it's new voice assistant with a British-accent, which can express emotions. Although the Grok 4 consists of multiple remarkable features, it is still the center of controversy. Google CEO Sundar Pichai on X, congratulated Musk on the launch of the AI model for which Musk responded with a thank you message.

> "Congrats on the launch, impressive progress!"
> **Sundar Pichai, Google CEO**
>
> Thanks
> **Elon Musk, Tesla CEO**

PHOTO: PTI

AIFF charts roadmap for Indian women's national team

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey on Friday held discussions with his colleagues to chart a roadmap for the national women's team's preparation plans for next year's AFC Asian Cup in Australia. It was decided to organise the 2025-26 Indian Women's League season, featuring eight teams playing 14 matches each, from September 2025 to January 2026.The Indian U20 women's team will also participate in the IWL. The AIFF said the earlier than usual scheduling would allow for ample preparation time in the lead-up to the Women's Asian Cup, scheduled from 1 to 21 March.—*PTI*

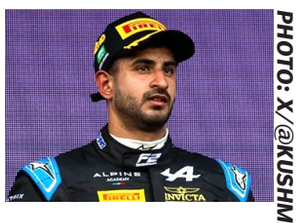


PHOTO: X/@KUSHMAINI

Kush Maini headlines Alpine's Goodwood line-up

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

BWT Alpine Formula One team reserve driver Kush Maini led the side on the opening day of the Goodwood Festival of Speed in Sussex, doing the iconic Hill Climb in the podium-finishing A523 - Alpine's 2023 FIA Formula One World Championship challenger. This marked Kush's second appearance at Goodwood, where he served as Alpine's flagbearer, helping kick off the team's 70th anniversary celebrations.Driving the A523, Kush led a spectacular Alpine showcase up the hill, including the classic A110 Berlinette, the A110 R, the A290, the all-new A390, and the Alpenglow concept hypercar.—*PTI*

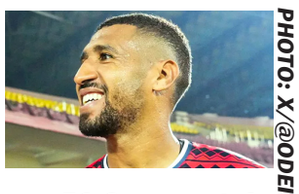


PHOTO: X/@ODEI

FC Goa, captain Odei Onaindia part ways

PANAJI, 11 JULY

FC Goa and their captain Odei Onaindia have parted ways after a fruitful partnership, the Indian Super League (ISL) club announced on Friday. The 35-year-old Spanish centre-back has appeared in the vast majority of the club's ISL matches in 2024/2025.Known for his exceptional ability to read the game and composure under pressure.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X/@KENCHE

Kenche eyes strong European Tour with India 'A'

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

With his blistering ball speed and attacking mindset, forward Venkatesh Kenche has delivered for India 'A' so far in the ongoing European tour, and he is in no mood to relent as he seeks to achieve bigger goals in top-flight hockey. The India 'A' men's team registered back-to-back wins 6-1 and 6-0 against Ireland to open their eight-match European tour on a bright note. Among the standout performers is Kenche, who is determined to make the most of this opportunity. "I have been training and practicing very hard. It has been my goal to play for India," he said in a Hockey India (HI) release on Friday.—*PTI*

Pak to send hockey team to India for AC

After reviewing security situation in India

KARACHI, 11 JULY

India and Pak players *PHOTO: PTI*

Pakistan is set to review the security situation in India before taking a call on sending its national men's hockey team to the neighbouring country for the upcoming Asia Cup and Junior World Cup later this year.

A top government official has said that the national team will not be sent to India if there are security threats to them.

Rana Mashood, the chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Development and Sports Program, said that Pakistan would travel to India for the tournaments if the government was totally satisfied with the security situation.

"The government will review the security situation in India for Pakistani nationals, and if it is not satisfied, it will not put any of our players at risk by sending them to play in India," Mashood, a former minister, said.

He pointed out that after India's Operation Sindoor, the situation is not safe for Pakistani nationals to travel to India. The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has sought advice and permission from concerned ministries to send national teams for the two major hockey events scheduled in India, with next month's Asia Cup also serving as a qualifier for the next World Cup in 2026.

Rana Mujahid, the secretary-general of PHF, admitted that in the past, Pakistan had taken part in some international events in India.

"But as of now, the situation is different, relations are strained, so we can only move forward when the government gives us clearance," he said.

He pointed out that the PHF was keeping a watch on threats being issued to the hockey team players on social media. —*PTI*

WORLD CUP IN MIND

India women eye a 4-1 series win against England in T20I

BIRMINGHAM, 11 JULY

Indian women's cricket team will be aiming to finish strongly against England women *PHOTO: PTI*

With the series already in the bag, a confident India will look to further assert their dominance and end the five-match women's T20I rubber on a high when they face England in the inconsequential fifth and final game here on Saturday.

While the bat and ball did the talking in the initial games, it was India's electric fielding that stood out in the fourth T20I, helping them seal a historic maiden series win over England in the shortest format.

Arundhati Reddy's three sharp catches in the deep and Radha Yadav's brilliance in the field helped India restrict England to 126 for 7, setting up a six-wicket win and a decisive 3-1 lead.

The victory not only marked India's first T20I series triumph over England but also provided a morale-boosting edge ahead of the upcoming three-match ODI series.

A win in the final game would give Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. a commanding 4-1 result and dent England's confidence going forward.

The Indian men's team had produced a memorable victory at Edgbaston last week in the second Test, and the women's side will be keen to keep the winning momentum going at the same venue.

India's bowling attack, built around four spinners and two seamers, has paid rich dividends as the England batters have visibly struggled against spin, losing 22 wickets to spinners so far in the series.

While Radha Yadav emerged as the Player of the Match for her two wickets and fielding exploits, it is young N Shree Charani who emerged as the leading wicket-taker after making her T20I debut at the start of this series.

With the most successful spinner in women's T20Is, Deepti Sharma anchoring the attack, India's spin dominance has been hard to counter.

In the batting department, Smriti Mandhana has been the top scorer, while Shafali Verma's aggressive approach has given India rapid starts.

Her 19-ball 31 in the fourth T20I set the tone for the chase and helped her earn a recall to the ODI squad for India A's tour of Australia.

The match starts at 11:05 PM IST —*PTI*

Root completes 37th ton

LEEDS, 11 JULY

Joe Root

Joe Root etched his name in the history books after continuing his golden run of form in Test cricket by completing the 37th century of his career in the longest format of the game during the second day of play in the third Test between England and India on Friday at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground.

Root, who was unbeaten at 99 at stumps after day 1 and became the 18th player to stay unbeaten at the end of a day's play, one run short of a century. The 34-year-old ensured he did not become the first player in that list to miss out on a ton as he reached the milestone with a boundary off Jasprit Bumrah on the first ball of the day, while breaking a series of records.

The century was Root's 11th against India and eight at home. Root has gone past Ricky Ponting and Steve Smith and has become the first player to score eight centuries at home against India. The 34-year-old has previously made two centuries against India during the 2014 series as well as one in 2018. During India's tour of England in 2021-22, the England cricket team made four centuries. —*PTI*

IT'S NOT A HOLIDAY

GAMBHIR BACKS BCC'S REVISED FAMILY RULE

LONDON, 11 JULY

India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Friday backed the BCCI's directive to limit the presence of cricketers' families during long overseas tours, saying players must realise they are not on vacation but on national duty.

The BCCI introduced a revised travel policy after the Indian team's 1-3 defeat in Australia at the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, capping family members' stay to two weeks maximum for tours longer than 45 days.

For shorter tours, the duration was restricted to seven days. 'Families' roles are important, but you've got to understand one thing. You are here for a purpose. It's not a holiday.

You're here for a huge purpose. You've got very few people in that dressing room or on this tour who get this opportunity to make the country proud.

"So yes, I'm not against not having families with us," said Gambhir during a conversation with Cheteshwar Pujara on Sony Sports Network.

Star batter Virat Kohli had earlier spoken in favour of having families accompany players, saying personal support helps during high-pressure situations.

Gambhir, however, stressed the importance of putting the country before everything else.

Shubman Gill is unhappy with umpires over ball change

The Duke's ball was once again in the spotlight after India captain Shubman Gill was unhappy with the umpires over a ball change during the second day of the third Test between India and England at Lord's.

India requested the second new ball to be changed after it went out of shape just 63 deliveries after it was taken in the 80th over of the innings.

However, the replacement given to India was much older than the ball that was originally in use.

Gill was seen in a heated discussion with umpire Sharfuddoula over the change, requesting a newer ball to be given. —*PTI*

USWNT legend Tobin Heath announces retirement

LONDON, 11 JULY

United States two-time World Cup winner Tobin Heath announced her retirement on Thursday, after years away from the sport due to injury, disappointing her legions of fans who hoped she might one day retake the field.

Famed for her cool demeanour and extraordinary intelligence on the pitch, Heath picked up two Olympic golds and won the NWSL championship twice with the Portland Thorns."I think I had a few more mountains I wanted to climb with football, even though I'm grateful for the career that I had," the 37-year-old forward said on her RE-CAP Show podcast."I get the question all the time, 'So, are you coming back?' and kind of like, well, the writing's on the wall."Heath last played for OL Reign and underwent season-ending knee surgery in September 2022 after suffering an injury.

One of the most decorated figures in the wildly successful US Soccer programme, she was named US Soccer Female Athlete of the Year in 2016 and earned 181 caps with the national team in her career."I never played to be famous or for people to care about me," said Heath. "I just played because I loved it. —*PTI*

Tobin Heath

Para Athletics C'ship: Sumit Antil wins gold

BENGALURU, 11 JULY

Two-time Paralympic champion Sumit Antil reaffirmed his dominance by clinching the men's javelin throw (F12 & F64) gold on day 1 of the 7th Indian Open Para Athletics Championship here on Friday. Haryana's Antil sent the spear to an outstanding 72.25m to be on the top step of the podium. His compatriot Manjeet secured silver with a commendable effort of 54.56 m, while Pradeep of SSCB earned bronze with a 45.17m throw. This edition of the championship holds critical importance as it serves as the final selection trial for the Indian contingent heading to the prestigious New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships later this year. —*PTI*

Carlos Alcaraz

Alcaraz advances to Wimbledon 2025 final

LONDON, 11 JULY

Two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz advanced to his third consecutive Wimbledon final on Friday, when he overcame American Taylor Fritz 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, 7-6(6). Competing on a sun-baked Centre Court, Alcaraz won 88 per cent of his first-serve points but was pushed at times during the two-hour, 48-minute clash.

The Spaniard suffered a brief lapse in level at the closing stages of the second set but bounced back impressively in the third, outlasting the fifth seed with his baseline power and consistency. He then saved two set points at 4/6 in the fourth-set tie-break, reeling off four consecutive points to move to within one victory of becoming just the fifth player to clinch three consecutive Wimbledon crowns. "It was a really difficult match, as always when I have to play against Taylor. Even tougher with the conditions, it was hot today," Alcaraz said. "I'm just really happy with everything that I've done today.

I dealt with the nerves, playing here in a semi-final is not easy. I'm proud of the way I stayed calm and thought clearly. I'm pleased about my level today."Currently riding a career-best 24-match winning streak, Alcaraz is also bidding to join Bjorn Borg as the only men in the Open Era to complete the Roland Garros–Wimbledon double in consecutive years. —*PTI*

Archery WC: Jyothi Surekha, Parneet in semis

MADRID, 11 JULY

Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Parneet Kaur stormed into their respective semifinals, while the mixed team stayed in contention for a bronze medal as India's compound archers kept their campaign alive at the Archery World Cup Stage 4 here on Friday.

Reigning Asian Games champion Jyothi, the top seed, defeated Hazal Burun of Turkey 147-144, while seventh seed Parneet edged past Oznur Cure Girdi, also of Turkey, 142-141 to make the last four.

Both will face different opponents in the semifinals, giving India a chance to secure a double podium finish in the women's compound event.

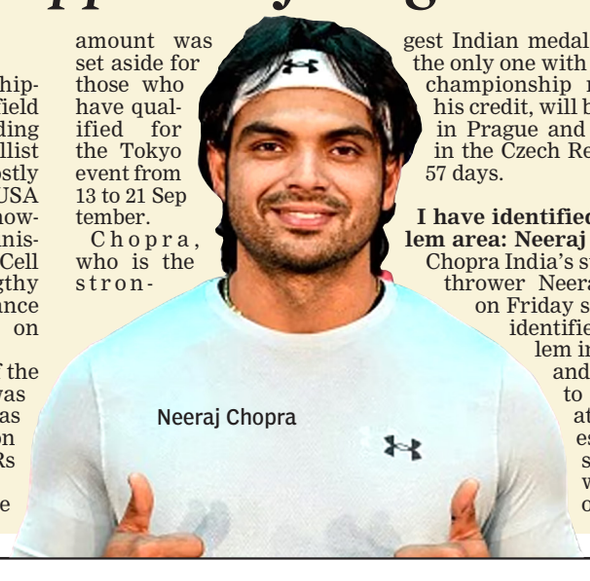
However, the men's compound archers disappointed in the individual category.

Top seed Rishabh Yadav exited in the second round, losing 141-143 to Italy's Michea Godano. —*PTI*

ATHLETICS WORLD C'SHIP

Ministry approves foreign training for Neeraj

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY



Neeraj Chopra

The World Championship-bound Indian track-and-field athletes, including defending javelin throw gold-medallist Neeraj Chopra, will mostly train in Europe and the USA before the September showpiece after the sports ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) approved lengthy exposure trips to enhance their medal prospects on Friday.

At the 157th meeting of the MOC here, athletics was the biggest beneficiary as training and competition proposals amounting to Rs 86 lakh were approved.

A lion's share of the amount was set aside for those who have qualified for the Tokyo event from 13 to 21 September.

Chopra, who is the strongest Indian medal hope and the only one with two world championship medals to his credit, will be training in Prague and Nymburk in the Czech Republic for 57 days.

I have identified a problem area: Neeraj

Chopra India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Friday said he has identified a problem in his game and is looking to address it at the earliest, as he seeks to win a second world championship gold medal later this year.

Chopra, who is the strongest Indian medal hope in the September 13-21 showpiece in Tokyo, will be training in Prague and Nymburk in the Czech Republic for 57 days.He will be heading out with his physio, Ishan Marwah, tonight and be based in the European country till September 5 at a total cost of Rs 19 lakh.

"My next target is the world championships, and I want to win there. Before the world championships, I will plan with my coach and see which event I can compete in to best prepare for it," Chopra said. —*PTI*

Archer education: AAI signs MoU with Amity University

NEW DELHI, 11 JULY

The Archery Association of India (AAI) on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amity University to offer certificate programmes and scholarships to archers, enabling them to pursue higher education without compromising their sporting careers.

The initiative aims to provide flexibility to senior, junior, and para archers, allowing them to balance academics with their rigorous training schedules.

Under the agreement, Amity University will offer tailored undergraduate and postgraduate programmes designed to accommodate the demanding routines of athletes. The university will also provide sports scholarships under the banner of 'CHAMPS', offering three tiers of financial support.

International-level players will be eligible for a 100 per cent scholarship, covering the full programme fee. National-level athletes will receive a 50 per cent scholarship, while state and district-level archers can avail of a 30 per cent fee waiver. —*PTI*